■ Saturday Special / A3-3

Marichu Maceda honored at last for contributions to film industry

■ Metro / A23

17,000 police to watch over Metro for May 1 protest rallies

■ Super / F2

42 synonyms for beauty and 4 ways to achieve it

President Arroyo declares May 2 special non-working holiday

ÉLAN

Saying goodbye on a wave of change with good feelings, gratitude

2 proposals to keep Filipino doctors from going abroad

By Christian V. Esguerra

HOW do you keep Filipino doctors from leaving for abroad?

A member of the Philippine College of Physicians is proposing that the government require all doctors trained in state-owned hospitals to work in the country for a specified

2 PROPOSALS/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Pinoy gang uses sexy girls to hit tourists in KL airport

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—A Filipino gang is using sexily dressed women to distract passengers and steal their luggage and laptops at the Kuala Lumpur International Air-

PINOY/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, April 30, 2005 ★★ 114 pages 15 sections Vol. 19 No. 141 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Haydee bares pressure

TOP GUNS of the Philippine National Police led by PNP Chief Arturo Lomibao (4th from left) brief INQUIRER editors on Wednesday on their preparation for the May 1 protest rally. From left Deputy Director Oscar Calderon, chief of directorial; Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, director for operations; CSupt. Jaime Lasar, director for community relations; CSupt. Nicolas Pasinos, director for personnel; CSupt Oscar Valenzuela, Eastern Police District chief; CSupt. Wilfredo Garcia, Southern Police District chief; CSupt. Joel Goltiao, director community relations group; CSupt. Ray Roderos, deputy director for intelligence and Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson. *(Story in Metro, Page A23)*

REM ZAMORA

Ex-PCGG chair: Palace kept asking me to quit

By Amando Doronila

MALACAÑANG tried to push Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, to an early resignation on April 14, ahead of her actual resignation that takes effect today.

On April 21, Yorac sent a curt letter of resignation to President Macapagal-Arroyo, following a phone call in the first week of April from Joaquin Lagonera, deputy executive secretary.

In an exclusive interview on Thursday with the INQUIRER, Yorac said Lagonera told her: "We heard you wanted to resign on April 15."

An apparently annoyed Yorac said: "I'm handing a resignation letter. I still have things to do."

Yorac said she had planned to resign on April 15, following arrangements she had made with her former law office partners to move into their office in an orderly phaseout to avoid disruption.

But the call of Lagonera, whom Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had sent to ascertain the date, was the last straw on top of the pressure that had been stepped up by Malacañang since last year over her resistance to

HAYDEE/ A22

Life over for Phivolcs chief geologist before 40

By Blanche S. Rivera and DJ Yap

LIFE begins at 40, or so they say. But not for Norman Tuñgol, who would have turned 40 next week.

Tuñgol, chief geologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, was to celebrate his and his mother's birthday, and the fiesta in Floridablanca, Pampanga, on Thursday.

"May was important for us. We had a lot to celebrate," his wife Malou said yesterday.

Tuñgol was to leave with Malou, their four daughters (Ayen, 12; Aly, 10; Ava, 7; and Alexi, 3) and his parents tomorrow. As it turned out, he left them altogether. He was one of the nine people killed last Thursday in the helicopter crash in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija.

Tuñgol's 70-year-old mother Norma was so sure he was not in the ill-fated chopper that the first thing she did on hearing the shocking news was give thanks that he was not there.

Her husband Ruben immediately called their son on his mobile phone, but there was no answer. Ruben tried two more times, but the recorded message kept saying the area was out of coverage.

At about 3:35 p.m., the radio blared out the names of the passengers killed in the crash, including the one Norma had been dreading to hear.

In what would be their last conversation, Tuñgol had mentioned to his mother that Raymundo Punongbayan, his former boss at Phivolcs and now governor of the Philippine National Red Cross, would be going on a trip to Dingalan, Aurora.

He usually went with Punongbayan on out-of-town trips, but this time, he did not say he would go too, Norma said.

"I just took for granted that he was not going on that trip," she said, adding that whenever her son went out of town she usually requested a Mass celebrated

LIFE/ A20

Only 2 crash victims identified

Hueys, AFP work horses, grounded

By Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan and Nikko Dizon

CLOSE to 50 Philippine Air Force Huey UH-1H helicopters were grounded for safety checks but defense officials said yesterday they would remain the military's "work horse" despite the crash which killed Raymundo Punongbayan, the country's top geo-scientist.

Investigators went to the crash site to try to establish if the tragedy was caused either by environmental factors, the helicopter itself, or human error, the Air Force said.

The helicopter crashed Thursday into Mt. Namat in Nueva Ecija, killing Punongbayan, former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, four other scientists and staff of Phivolcs, two Air Force pilots and two soldiers.

"This is a wake-up call for the Armed Forces to check on its air assets to make sure that such a tragedy will not be repeated in the future," President Macapagal-Arroyo said at a news conference.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told reporters the Air Force had grounded all its Huey choppers until authorities determined what caused the crash.

HUEYS/ A20

By Nikko Dizon, Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE FIRE that engulfed the UH-1H Huey helicopter when it crashed into Mt. Namat was so fierce it reduced to ashes the remains of some of the nine people killed in the disaster, rescuers said yesterday.

Only the bodies of 1st Lt. Reynaldo Gerodias and Sgt. Whilbert Tacata, pilot and crewmember, respectively, were intact and they have been the only ones so far identified among six fatalities recovered.

Gerodias' and Tacata's bodies were largely spared from the flames because they were thrown out of the chopper, Air Force officials said.

One of those killed was Raymundo Punongbayan, former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) governor. Also killed were four Phivolcs scientists.

It was not known at press time if any of the four sets of remains that had been recovered belonged to any of them.

"The main focus of our efforts now is to account for the remains of the three other [unrecovered] victims," Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PAF spokesperson, said in a press conference.

Parajumpers of the 505th Search and Rescue Group who retrieved the bodies reported finding a grisly scene.

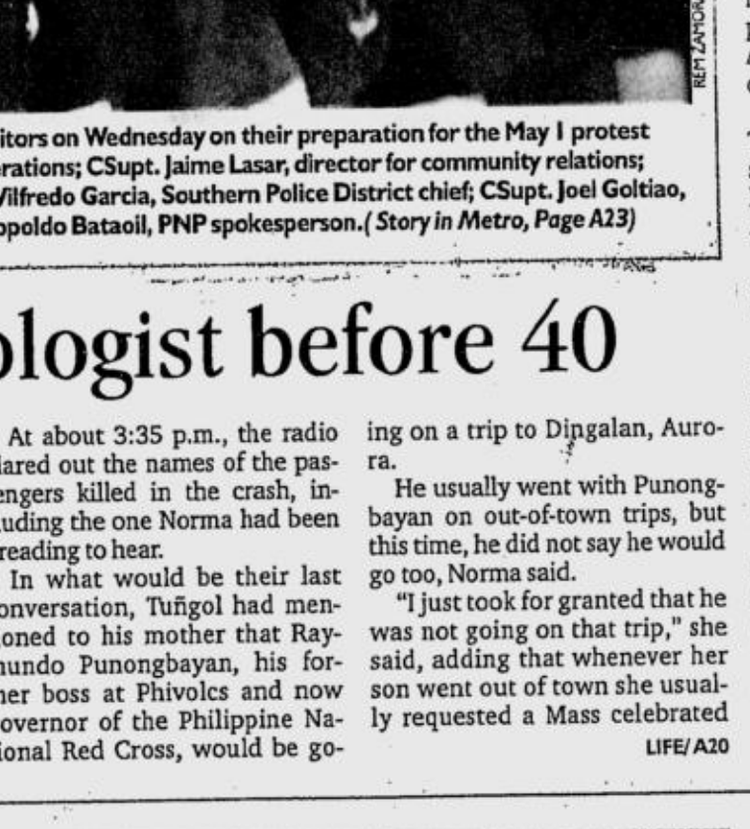
"Some of the bodies were still burning. We had to extinguish the small flames licking the remains," Staff Sgt. Edward Belmonte, the team leader, told the INQUIRER.

Most of the victims' bodies had been mangled and one was decapitated, Belmonte said. Body parts littered the ground.

Belmonte said that after placing the recovered remains in four body bags, he and the other rescuers realized that three others had yet to be accounted for.

"Sunog na sunog na abo na lang talaga. Hindi na namin mahawakan (They were so burned that they were really ashes al-

ONLY/ A20



Dancer, away for 20 years, returns to culture shock

AFTER 20 years performing on the European stage, leading Filipino dancer Augustus Damian has returned home to helm the national ballet—and experience a culture shock.

Damian was principal dancer for some of Germany's most prestigious ballet companies before quitting to become the artistic director of Ballet Philippines. His reentry had not been the easiest and the differences in living in Europe and the Philippines had left him aghast.

"In Europe, dancers are paid reasonably well ... they really don't have to worry about much at all. Here, dancers exist," said the soft-spoken dancer over coffee in a café opposite the Cultural Center of

DANCER/ A22

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR of Ballet Philippines Augustus Damian has lost more than half his dancers to Disneyland Hong Kong. AFP

Rosebud's ₱5.8M came from jueteng–PNP execs

By Fe B. Zamora and Luige del Puerto

THE P5.8 million paid as "agent's fees" to former police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong came from payoffs from jueteng, or the illegal numbers game, sources from the Philippine National Police claimed yesterday.

The cash payment to Ong was ordered last January by the then PNP chief Edgardo Aglipay after Ong accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of stopping the PNP from honoring its "service agreement" with her and blocking the release of her agent's fees.

"It was jueteng money. Such transaction would not go unnoticed in Camp Crame," said a top PNP official.

Another source said he knew the officer who delivered the money to Ong in late January. He described Aglipay's courier as a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

Aglipay retired in March and was replaced by Director General Arturo Lomibao.

An unnamed top police official had told the INQUIRER earlier this week that three relatives of a top government official, known by their code names M1, M2 and JS7, were the biggest recipients of payoffs from jueteng operations.

As speculations flew that M1 was Mike Arroyo and M2 his son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the Senate mounted an inquiry to unmask the identity of the three alleged recipients of jueteng bribe money.

Reacting to the claim that the funds paid to her came from jueteng bribe money, Ong yesterday maintained that the money she received came from the PNP.

ROSEBUD/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The entire archipelago will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the east and southeast will prevail throughout the archipelago.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY M. TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH/04/30/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

HK to deport Chinoy drug lord

Mandaue trial for Calvin Tan

By Daisy C.L. Mandap

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong magistrate yesterday granted the Philippine government's request for the extradition of alleged drug lord Calvin de Jesus Tan.

Tan, a 30-year-old Filipino of Chinese descent, has 15 days to appeal the decision, by applying for the writ of habeas corpus at the High Court.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales said Judge Allan Wyeth of the Hong Kong Magistracy granted the Philippine government's bid to have Tan tried in Mandaue City, where he and 11 others face charges in connection with the 675-kilo drug haul in September last year.

In an interview, Gonzales said Tan, who fled the country after the P1.3-billion bust, recently served a short jail sentence in the former Crown Colony also for a minor drug charge and for customs violation.

The justice department had filed for a hold release order against Tan in view of the extradition proceedings, he said.

The government had filed a case against Tan et al before Branch 48 of the Mandaue Regional Trial Court for violation of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Law.

"If Tan doesn't appeal the decision, he should be back in the Philippines to face trial for drug trafficking within one month," said former Justice Undersecretary Jose C. Calida, who was in Hong Kong to assist in the extradition application.

CEBU City Rep. Antonio Cuenco holds up photocopy of Calvin Tan's picture. Tan is suspected to be the brains behind the massive shabu making operations in Mandaue City busted by the police in September last year. CDN FILE PHOTO/ TONEE DESPOJO

With him were Justice Undersecretary Ernesto Pineda; Rep. Antonio V. Cuenco, who's the chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

In allowing the extradition, Wyeth said he was satisfied the alleged offense was among those prescribed under Hong Kong law, and that there was enough evidence to suggest that a prima facie case existed against Tan.

Bolstering the case was an undertaking made by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, that Tan would not face the death penalty if he was sent back to the Philippines.

Under the extradition treaty between the Philippines and Hong Kong, a suspect cannot be surrendered unless an undertaken is made by the requesting country that the death penalty will not be imposed.

This is despite Philippine laws that prescribe the maximum sentence of death for drug trafficking.

Tan was arrested by customs officers in Hong Kong on Sept. 29 last year at a ferry terminal, while on his way to Macau.

He was found with small amounts of methamphetamine hydrochloride tablet, five grams of shabu, 1.6 grams of ketamin, 0.3 grams of cocaine and money in various denominations, including $910,000 cash. ***With a report from Volt Contreras in Manila***

A US Marine escorts US Embassy Chargé d Affaires Joseph Mussomeli and Noel Ruiz, Livelihood Enhancement and Peace Program manager, during a visit to the Basilan Provincial Capitol Friday. AFP PHOTO

US envoy calls for vigilance in South

ISABELA, Basilan—US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli yesterday called for vigilance in the South to prevent the spread of armed Islamic militancy that threatens both governments.

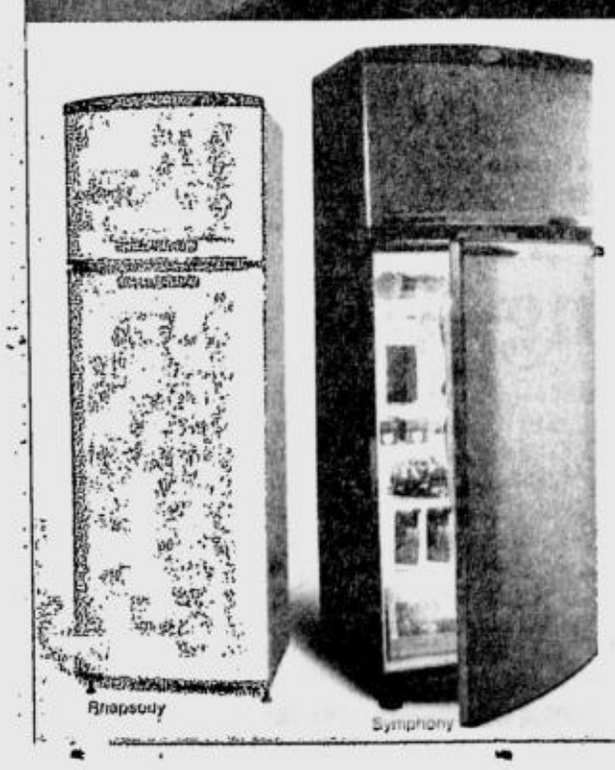
Mussomeli said the allies must not neglect Mindanao, which Washington considers a key training base for Al-Qaeda-linked Muslim groups, and deliver on official commitments of development aid.

Failing these, "we will lose this war," he said in a speech to about 200 Filipino and US soldiers who completed a short anti-terrorist training course.

Mussomeli was making his first public appearance in the country after he provoked a diplomatic protest from Manila with comments comparing Mindanao to Afghanistan.

Interviewed in early April by Australia' SBS television, Mussomeli had warned of the flow of foreign militants to Mindanao, the hotbed of a decades-old Muslim separatist rebellion.

In his comments posted at the US Embassy website, he said Mindanao was fast becoming a "mecca" for terrorism and risked "becoming like an Afghanistan situation." The joint military training exercise was held in Basilan, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, an Al Qaeda-linked kidnap group that features on the US State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations. *AFP*



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- SM Citybank Appliance Fiesta Megatrade Hall, Level 5, SM Megamall, Bldg. B March 18 to April 10, 2005
- Savers Mart Angeles March 1 to 31, 2005
- SM Installment Festival Cebu March 30 to April 10
- Anson Emporium Appliance Fair Glorietta Activity Center April 8 to 18, 2005

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Cardinal Sin gets Golden Palm award

By Christian V. Esguerra

RETIRED Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, 76, received the prestigious Golden Palm of Jerusalem, the highest service award given by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

He is the first Filipino to receive the honor.

Sin was cited for his "active benevolence in the Holy Church" while serving as the Order's Philippine chapter.

The award was issued in Rome last Jan. 17 by Carlo Cardinal Furno, grandmaster of the Equestrian Order, representing then Pope John Paul II.

"As I receive this award, I again commit myself to the Lord," he said in a message during formal rites at his Villa San Miguel residence in Mandaluyong on Thursday.

"I believe I am still here because I still have a mission. And that mission is to convince you to become saints. Do not be afraid to become saints," he said.

Present at the ceremony were former President Corazon Aquino and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his homily, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales paid tribute to Sin's unwavering allegiance to the Catholic faith.

CHEd chair quits

Priest reportedly under pressure

By Alcuin Papa

COMMISSION on Higher Education chair Fr. Rolando dela Rosa OP has resigned to go back to his priestly duties, this was confirmed yesterday by a top CHEd official.

Hermenegildo Ceniza, who was appointed two weeks ago as CHEd executive assistant, said Dela Rosa announced a week ago that he would resign by the end of the month.

"It is true by April 30, he will be leaving CHEd because of personal reasons and the conflict with his priestly ministry. I cannot answer anything else regarding his resignation," Ceniza told reporters yesterday.

Another CHEd source also confirmed the resignation of Dela Rosa, adding that the CHEd chair was getting a lot of pressure after he ordered some 23 nursing schools to stop operations for failure to comply with CHEd's requirements.

The CHEd chair, the source said, felt the pressure during the deliberations on the commission's 2005 budget in Congress. The source said some lawmakers allegedly tried to pressure Dela Rosa not to close down the nursing schools or else suffer a cut in their 2005 budget.

Since his appointment as CHEd chair, Dela Rosa immediately ordered the scrutiny of colleges and universities offering nursing courses to students nationwide.

Dela Rosa had wanted all schools offering nursing courses to first comply with the standards set by CHEd. These include accreditation with a hospital with at least 100 hospital beds, equipment in all laboratories and at least five faculty members with degrees in nursing.

The CHEd chief set a deadline for schools offering nursing courses to complete their requirements on or before Sept. 30, 2004 to get CHEd's accreditation.

The CHEd had noted that some schools were offering nursing courses even if they were not yet accredited by the commission.

As a result, the 23 schools were requested to stop offering nursing courses due to their failure to submit their requirements. Some of these schools are branches of the AMA Computer College and STI computer college.

The 23 schools had asked CHEd for more time to complete their requirements.

The Commission agreed and conducted another round of inspections of the schools earlier this year.

But up to the present, the CHEd has not revealed if these schools had complied with the requirements or whether any of these schools have been closed.

In a recent interview, Dela Rosa said he wanted to make sure all nursing students around the country get quality education from these schools.

Dela Rosa had also planned to shut down schools whose graduates have not been able to pass the nursing board exams for the past five years.

Vizconde risks losing legs, needs assistance

By Christian V. Esguerra

VIZCONDE

THE AGING anti-crime advocate could end up a cripple.

Lauro Vizconde, 67, is in danger of losing both legs as a result of a long-running bout with diabetes, his cardiologist Valentin Yabes said yesterday.

Both legs are suffering from ischemia or poor blood supply, which could lead to amputation in a year or two.

"Without the proper intervention, a wound won't heal, the legs would blacken, and there will eventually be amputation," Yabes explained in an interview with the INQUIRER.

The doctor said initial tests suggested that Vizconde was suffering from "diabetic neuropathy," a condition where the nerves are damaged by high sugar levels.

Dante Jimenez, Vizconde's comrade at the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, yesterday appealed for financial support.

Vizconde would need to go through 10 to 20 sessions of laser bio-resonance treatment to revive both legs, his doctor said.

While Yabes' services are free, Vizconde would have to pay for the treatments which cost at least P5,000 a session.

Vizconde was rushed to the University of Santo Tomas Hospital on Monday because he had difficulty walking.

Jimenez said his friend left the hospital after a few days because he could not afford to pay for the treatment.

"The old man has no money," he told the INQUIRER. "He's been jobless since he returned to the country soon after he learned about his family's death."

Vizconde joined the VACC following the murder of his wife and two daughters allegedly at the hands of a former senator's son Hubert Webb and his friends.

Delinquent GSIS loan borrowers cautioned against syndicate

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has advised delinquent housing loan borrowers to transact business only at GSIS offices to avoid being victimized by unscrupulous people who threaten borrowers that their homes will be "padlocked" if they don't pay up.

The warning was raised by Arnaldo Cuasay, GSIS Senior Vice President for Housing and Real Property Development Group, after his office received numerous reports about syndicates preying on GSIS housing loan borrowers, specifically those with delinquent or cancelled contracts.

"These groups are going around GSIS subdivisions and housing projects, posing as GSIS representatives and telling our borrowers that they would be evicted from their homes if they didn't pay these unscrupulous individuals," Cuasay said.

"They are taking advantage of the fact that the GSIS has sent out demand letters and cancellation notices to delinquent borrowers as part of our collection and updating campaign," he added.

He said delinquent borrowers and those with cancelled awards were earlier advised to update or reactivate their accounts with the GSIS through the Rate Reduction and Restructuring Program (RRRP).

"For the record, the GSIS has not sent any group or field personnel to collect any amount from our borrowers. We sent out demand letters and cancellation notices, and the borrowers are asked to go to the nearest GSIS offices to settle their accounts," Cuasay said.

"If you encounter these unscrupulous people, call the GSIS housing department at 833-2750 or 891-6150 so that we can take proper action," he said.

Tregoe, management expert, dies; 77

BENJAMIN B. Tregoe Jr., cofounder and chairman emeritus of Kepner-Tregoe Inc. died on April 20, 2005 of complications from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was 77.

Tregoe was a leader in the organization development industry because of the management tools that he and his partner, Charles Kepner, developed in the late 1950s.

Their company, Kepner-Tregoe, based in Princeton, New Jersey, has transferred problem-solving, decision-making and planning approaches to millions of managers in 50 countries, including the Philippines.

The partners' "The Rational Manager" is recognized as a landmark publication in the field of management methodology.

Tregoe visited the Philippines in 1980 to set up operations here and conduct conferences. Since 1986, the Manila Execon Group has been the exclusive licensee of Kepner-Tregoe in the country.

Correction

WHO'S HU?

In the story "Chinese leader ends state visit" on Page A3, the accompanying photo used was that of Taiwanese opposition Nationalist Party leader Lien Chan (right). It should have been Chinese President Hu Jintao (left). REUTERS

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

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FESTIVAL Highlights

Date	Activity	Venue
Pista'y Dayat Festival		
Apr. 28	Formal Opening Ceremonies	Capitol Plaza
Apr. 28 - May 1	Fil-Streaming Fair	Capitol Grounds
Apr. 29	Buddy Heatwave Concert	Capitol Stage
Apr. 30	Fluvial Parade	Beachfront
May 1	Pageant and Coronation Night	Capitol Stage
	Grand Parade	Capitol Grounds
Bangus Festival		
Apr. 28 - May 1	Pilgrims Bar	Guilig Street
	Joshua Tree	Guilig Street
	Music Warehouse	Perez Boulevard
	Padi's Point	CSI City Mall
Hundred Islands Festival		
Apr. 29 - May 1	Tour de Hundred Islands: President's Cup Cycling Classic Opening	
May 1	Hundred Islands Adventure Race: Triathlon	
	Fiesta Hundred Islands: Air/Water Show, Wharf Party/Dance Concert, Fireworks Display	

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DNA test seen to crack Ramos case

'Result will reveal identity of killer,' says cop chief

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE DNA test on tissue samples taken from under the fingernails of slain former Singapore Ambassador Alicia Ramos and her sister Leticia may crack the week-old homicide case, the police said.

"The DNA test is the key [to solving this case]," Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia disclosed in a meeting with INQUIRER editors on Thursday evening. "The result of the test will reveal the identity of the suspect(s) or killer(s)."

The result would be available in two to three weeks. If flesh were found under Alicia's fingernails, this could mean that she tried to fight off her attackers, said the head of the Southern Police District.

The tissue samples could then be used to match the DNA of a suspect or suspects, once anyone has been so identified.

"We are continuing our intelligence gathering and operations on known members of the *akyat-bahay* gang (burglars)," Garcia said.

Members of the task force, which included district and region-level intelligence and investigation units and forensic investigators, had brought for routine check persons who had been tagged in *akyat-bahay* gang operations in Metro Manila.

"We could compare their records with what we have in our database," Garcia said.

Other materials submitted to the laboratory for testing and fingerprinting included a packaging tape apparently used to tie the victim, and pieces of cloth found in the crime scene.

They also included the packaging tape that got stuck on the neck of Leticia, and a piece of cloth that she was carrying when she went to a hospital not far from her home.

"If fingerprints (were lifted) from these items, it would tell us who had been in the crime scene," Garcia said.

He also disclosed that as of now, no item had been declared missing from the Ramoses' abode.

"[Leticia] has not been able to make an inventory [of their belongings] yet," he said.

A scene of the crime operation (Soco) unit had earlier tried but failed to lift a fingerprint from the crime scene because the house "was very dusty."

Based on Leticia's account, at least two burglars barged into their home around 5:30 a.m. Sunday, tied and gagged her and 64-year-old Alicia.

She was able to free herself two hours later and went straight to the St. Claire Hospital, where she told a security guard what happened. The security guard reported the incident to the police.

Responding cops found Alicia's body on a bed on the second floor of their home around 7:30 a.m. Her mouth had been taped, and her faced covered with a towel.

The autopsy results showed she died of suffocation. *With a report from Tarra V. Quismundo*

Not the same Harry Tan

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue clarified yesterday that Harry Tan, director and stockholder of Fortune Tobacco Corp., is not the same Harry Tan facing a tax evasion case filed against owners of Columbia Sports Philippines.

A certain Harry Tan was implicated in the tax evasion case filed by the BIR and the Department of Finance with the Department of Justice yesterday.

A deed of assignment showed that a certain Harry Tan became owner of Columbia Sports after he bought shares of stock in the company from Vincent and Alex Lim and other registered owners of the company, as per record of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Harry Tan of Fortune said the person implicated in the tax evasion case against Columbia Sports was not him. He said Fortune does not own nor has a share in Columbia Sports.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said there is no document linking Harry Tan of Fortune to Columbia Sports. Parayno said the identity of the person to whom the Columbia shares were transferred is still being ascertained.

He added that he asked Fortune's Tan to examine the deed of assignment and that he said the signature that appeared on the document was not his. Parayno said the unknown Harry Tan would be charged with tax evasion if the Lims, the owners registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission, can prove that they had sold the shares.

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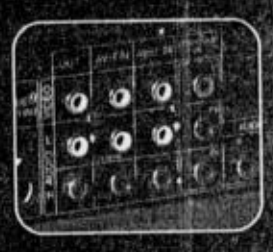

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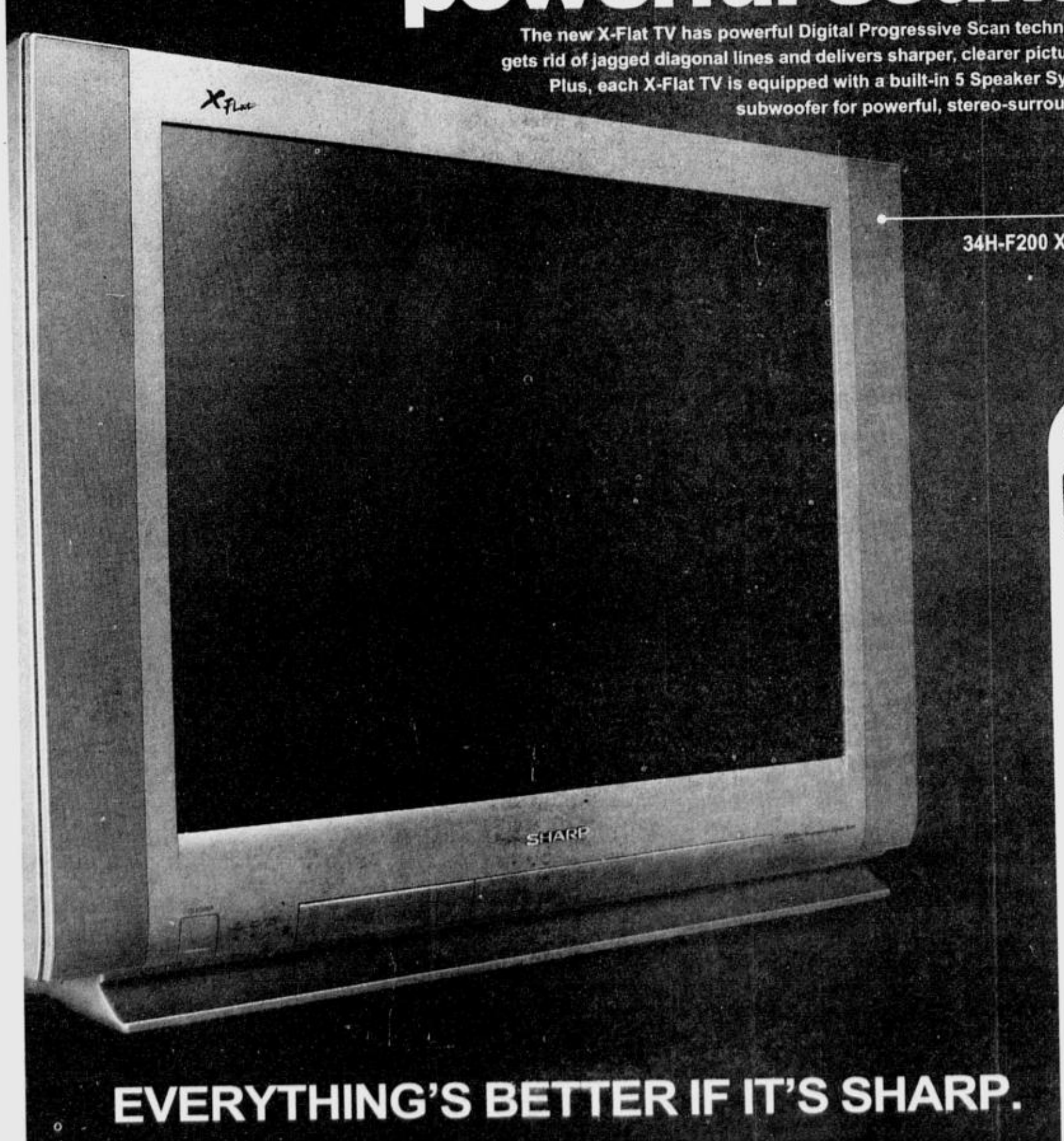

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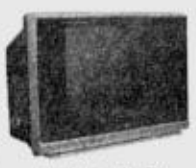

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 30, 2005
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 16:1-10
Gospel: John 15:18-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If the world hates you, remember that the world hated me before you. This would not be so if you belonged to the world, because the world loves its own. But you are not of the world since I have chosen you from the world; because of this the world hates you.

"Remember what I told you: the servant is not greater than his master; if they persecuted me, they will persecute you, too. Have they kept my teaching? Will they then keep yours? All this they will do to you for the sake of my name because they do not know the One who sent me."

Commentary

If we begin to practice this kind of love, in imitation of Jesus, then we will know some of the rejection, the hate and the fear that this love can call forth in those who do not want to live in love. We have a choice as disciples: we can work at being loved by the world or being loved by God and often hated by the world for telling it the truth and by living the truth that lays bare injustice, sin and evil. And then we will know in some small part, the rejection that our Master knew in his life. We shouldn't be surprised if we have trouble in the world—Jesus had a lot of trouble with it! We have been warned that if we love as Jesus has loved us then we will be seen to belong to God the Father and not to the world's powers, nations and ways. Do we live passionately and strongly devoted to the Word of God, loving the people of the world as Jesus has loved us? Jesus is not just talking about loving our families and those in church or work, but loving all the world, our enemies, those different than us, those who resent us and who think of us as irrelevant, as ignorant or as trouble. Are we truly servants of the Master, the Crucified One?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—In termination cases, employer bears the burden of showing that the dismissal was for a just or authorized cause.—Basic is the rule in termination cases that the employer bears the burden of showing that the dismissal was for a just or authorized cause. Otherwise, the dismissal is deemed unjustified. Apropos this responsibility, petitioner corporation should have presented clear and convincing evidence of imminent economic or business reversals as a form of affirmative defense in the proceedings before the labor arbiter or, under justifiable circumstances, even on appeal with the NLRC. However, in all the proceedings before the two quasi-judicial bodies and even before the CA, no evidence was submitted to show the corporation's alleged business losses. It is only now that petitioners have belatedly submitted the corporation's income tax returns from 1996 to 1999 as proof of alleged continued losses during those years. Again, elementary is the principle barring a party from introducing fresh defenses and facts at the appellate stage. This Court has ruled that matters regarding the financial condition of a company—those that justify the closing of its business and show the losses in its operations—are questions of fact that must be proven below. Petitioners must bear the consequence of their neglect. Indeed, their unexplained failure to present convincing evidence of losses at the early stages of the case clearly belies the credibility of their present claim. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Me-Shurn Corporation v. Me-Shurn Workers Union-FSM, G.R. No. 156292, January 11, 2005)

By R.B. VERA

7 HOURS IN CENTENNIAL BASH

Erap allowed to attend mother's party

By Neison F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday allowed deposed President Joseph Estrada to attend his mother's 100th birthday celebration at the Manila Hotel on Monday after the Philippine National Police posed no objection to his request.

But the Sandiganbayan Special Division gave Estrada only seven hours, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., to attend Doña Mary Ejercito's centennial birthday party. It also warned Estrada from making any side trips.

The anti-graft court prohibited any media interviews for the former President and directed the PNP to control the use of communication devices like cellular phones by the former President and his guests.

Both government prosecutors led by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and the PNP did not oppose Estrada's attendance at his mother's birthday bash. However, the national police remained adamant that there would not be any side trip for the former President.

ESTRADA: No interviews AP

"From his place of confinement in Tanay he shall go directly to Manila Hotel and from there shall return directly to his place of confinement without delay or any side trip or deviation so as not to compromise his safety and security," the PNP stressed.

The PNP also reminded Estrada that he should strictly comply with the scheduled duration of the visit from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag, in an earlier motion, asked the anti-graft court's Special Division presided by Justice Teresita de Castro, to allow Estrada to attend the May 2 thanksgiving Mass and get-together of the Estrada family in celebration of Doña Mary's centennial birthday, which he described as a once-in-a-lifetime affair.

He also asked the Court to allow the former President to remain until 11 pm. before being returned to his Tanay rest house, where he is currently detained on plunder charges.

Saguisag noted that despite the inconvenience that the trip would entail," mothers, in our culture, have a special place in the heart of children." He said Estrada would be brought to Manila Hotel "subject to the usual security condition."

He added that Estrada is "not unmindful" of his two previous requests which were granted, like the April 12 visit of actress and Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow Susan Roces and his April 19 birthday celebration but could not just let the momentous event pass.

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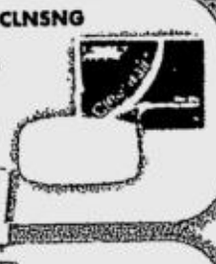

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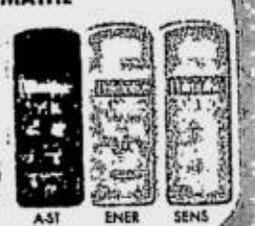

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Army chief OKs pullout of 41st IB troops from Abra

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER the police, it's now the turn of soldiers in Abra to be replaced.

Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga has recommended the pullout of the entire 41st Infantry Battalion from Abra after a fact-finding team confirmed that soldiers had served in the "private armies" of local politicians.

Senga told reporters on Thursday that the Army had completed its investigation into reports that members of the 529-man 41st IB were involved in criminal activities in Abra. The investigation team was headed by Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, chief of the Army Inspector General's Office.

Senga noted that the soldiers' "involvement is not that bad."

"However, given the prevailing situation, I recommended that the entire battalion be replaced," he said, adding he had already given his recommendation to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu.

Earlier, Senga told reporters that he would ask Northern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez to work out the transfer of the 41st IB troops.

Initial reports said they might be replaced by troops based in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

The 41st IB troops would undergo "re-training" before they are re-assigned, Senga said.

Early this month, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes sacked the entire police force in Abra and removed control and supervision over the police from local executives.

The directive came after a fact-finding team reported that the provincial police force was inept, and that private armies maintained by warring politicians were behind the recent spate of violence and political tension in the province.

Its Task Force Abra had also recommended to the Department of National Defense the replacement of the 41st IB.

Former 41st IB commander Lt. Col. Noel Mislang is facing court martial for allegedly ordering two of his men to assassinate Lagayan town mayor Cecile Luna and her family upon orders of Abra Gov. Vicente Valera.

But the two sergeants refused to carry out the orders and reported Mislang to their superiors.

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THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD AND NECK SURGERY
in cooperation with PSO-HNS SOUTHERN TAGALOG CHAPTER (STENTS) will be holding its PSO-HNS Midyear Convention on *April 29 to May 1, 2005 at the Legend Hotel Puerto Princesa City, Palawan*

"PRACTICES, PROCEDURES & PRESCRIPTIONS:
HOPE OR HYPE?"

ents southern tagalog ENT specialists

WELCOME TO PUERTO PRINCESA!

This year's midyear convention will be held for the first time in the exotic city of Puerto Princesa. The preparations for this midyear convention lasted more than a year tackling even the minutest detail in order to make your stay a truly memorable one.

This midyear convention was planned to be different and innovative. For the first time, all scientific sessions are to be held in the evening, presented not in the usual lecture format. The night sessions will give all the participants including the speakers enough time to experience and enjoy Puerto Princesa City and Palawan as a whole. Outdoor games dubbed as Palawan Challenge are to be held in one of the islands. Other surprises await the participants as soon as they set foot in Puerto Princesa.

We hope you'll enjoy your stay in Puerto Princesa. See you soon!

ALEXANDER C. CABUNGCAL, MD, FPSO-HNS, FPCS
President, PSO-HNS Southern Tagalog Chapter

MESSAGE

Warm Greetings! Welcome to the Midyear Convention of the PSO-HNS, Inc. Once again, we come to a gathering to learn and share our knowledge and experiences with our colleagues and friends.

The venue, Puerto Princesa is such a beautiful place that for sure we will have an "enjoyable learning experience". On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate the host, PSO-HNS Southern Tagalog Chapter, for a job well done.

The theme: "Prescriptions, Procedures and Practices: Hope or Hype?" is very relevant and practical for our daily practice of medicine today.

May I enjoin you to be part of this momentous event and make it a great success. "MABUHAY"!

FELIX P. NOLASCO, MD, FPSO-HNS, FPCS
President
PSO-HNS

MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery who are assembled for the Mid-Year Convention at the Legend Hotel in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

It is in the context of the vital and significant role of surgeons engaged in the practice of Head and Neck Surgery that the theme of this Convention is focused on "Prescriptions, Procedures and Practices – Hope or Hype?"

There is a need for a contemporary definitive text on the three phases involved in the rigorous tasks of anybody in the medical profession. The doctor's field has undergone a rapid evolutional rate of growth, development and progress that always commences with prescribing the necessary medicine followed by management of proper procedures for treatment and the application of certain practices for the patient's complete recovery. The endpoint all of these is the desire coupled with the expectation of fulfilling the mission of "Saving a Life via Head and Neck Surgey".

What then is the doctor's concern? Is it more of trust and fulfillment or publicity and hype?

ABELARDO B. PEREZ, MD, FPSO-HNS, FPCS, FAAO-HNS, FACS
President, Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

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CONVENTION PROGRAM

TIME	APRIL 29	APRIL 30	MAY 1
AM	Welcome Ceremonies City Tour/Honda Bay Tour Extreme Sportsfest	Honda Bay Tour City Tour Extreme Sportsfest	Departure
PM	Interesting Paper Contest Welcome Banquet Special Business Meeting	Plenary Session "Controversies in ENT-HNS" Fellowship Night	

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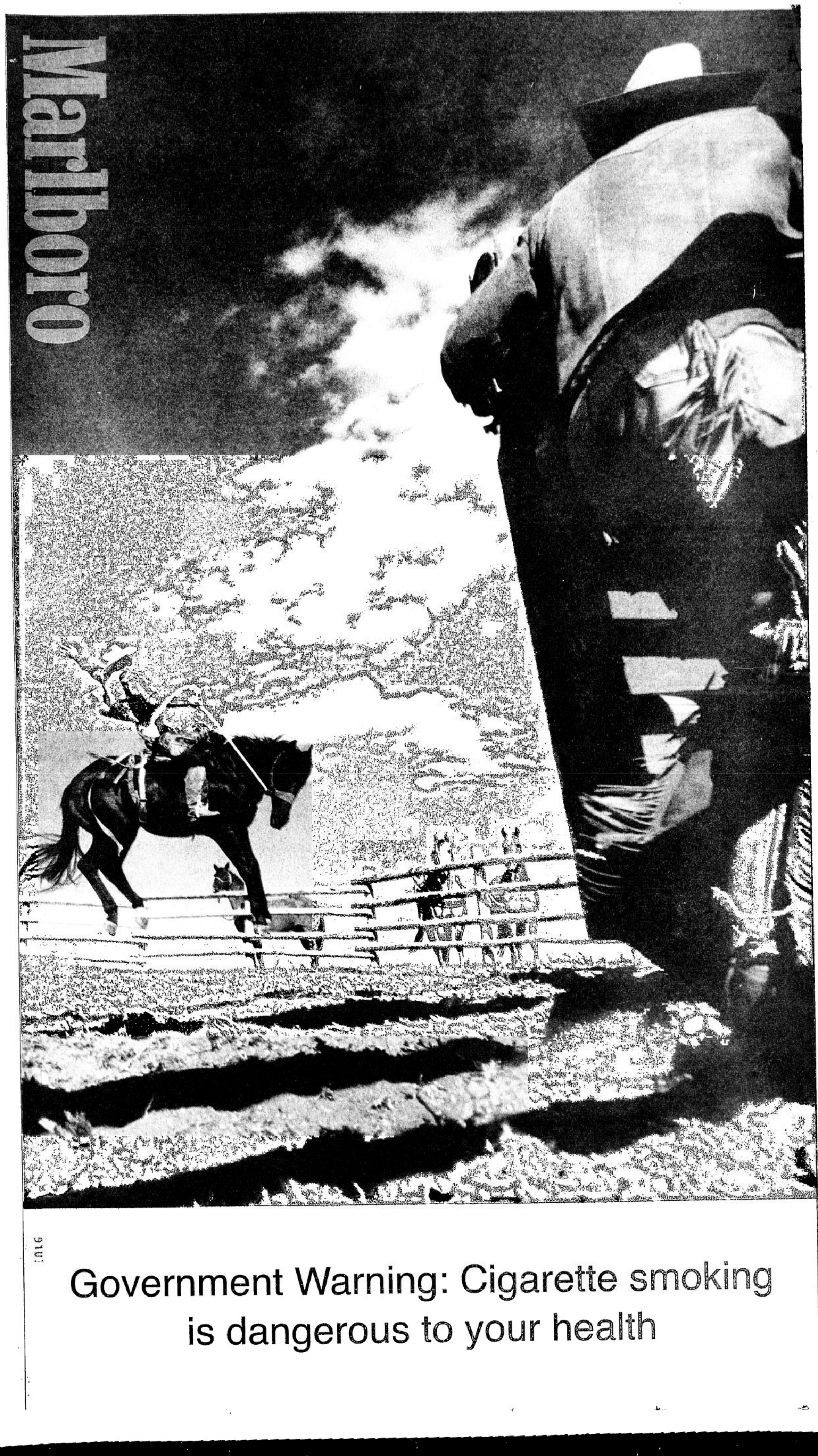

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Meeting could end China-Taiwan row

BEIJING—Taiwan opposition leader Lien Chan and Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Jintao entered into historic talks on Friday which could formally end decades of hostilities between the civil war adversaries.

Hu welcomed Lien's delegation with handshakes, smiles and a group photo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the Kuomintang (KMT) party's first return to China since it was defeated by Mao Zedong's Communist armies and fled across the Strait to Taiwan in 1949.

"Our two parties... should show the world that the Chinese people have the ability and wisdom to resolve our contradictions and problems," Hu said before going into a closed-door meeting.

Lien told Hu: "We should avoid any further standoff, confrontation or even collision. We want reconciliation and dialogue."

Addressing Peking University students earlier on Friday, Lien urged the Chinese government, which claims Taiwan as its own, to embrace political reform.

"The speed and scale of political reform on the mainland still have considerable room for improvement," Lien said in a speech televised live nationwide. He noted that China had introduced elections at the grassroots level.

Lien, who is set to step down as KMT chair this year, is visiting to ensure his legacy and to mend fences after China passed a law authorizing war if self-ruled Taiwan formally declares statehood.

But his speech upset Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) which advocates independence for the democratic island, still officially styled the "Republic of China." Lien said in his Peking University address that neither Taipei nor Beijing should upset the status quo which has kept the peace between them for decades, even though the KMT espouses reunification with a democratic China.

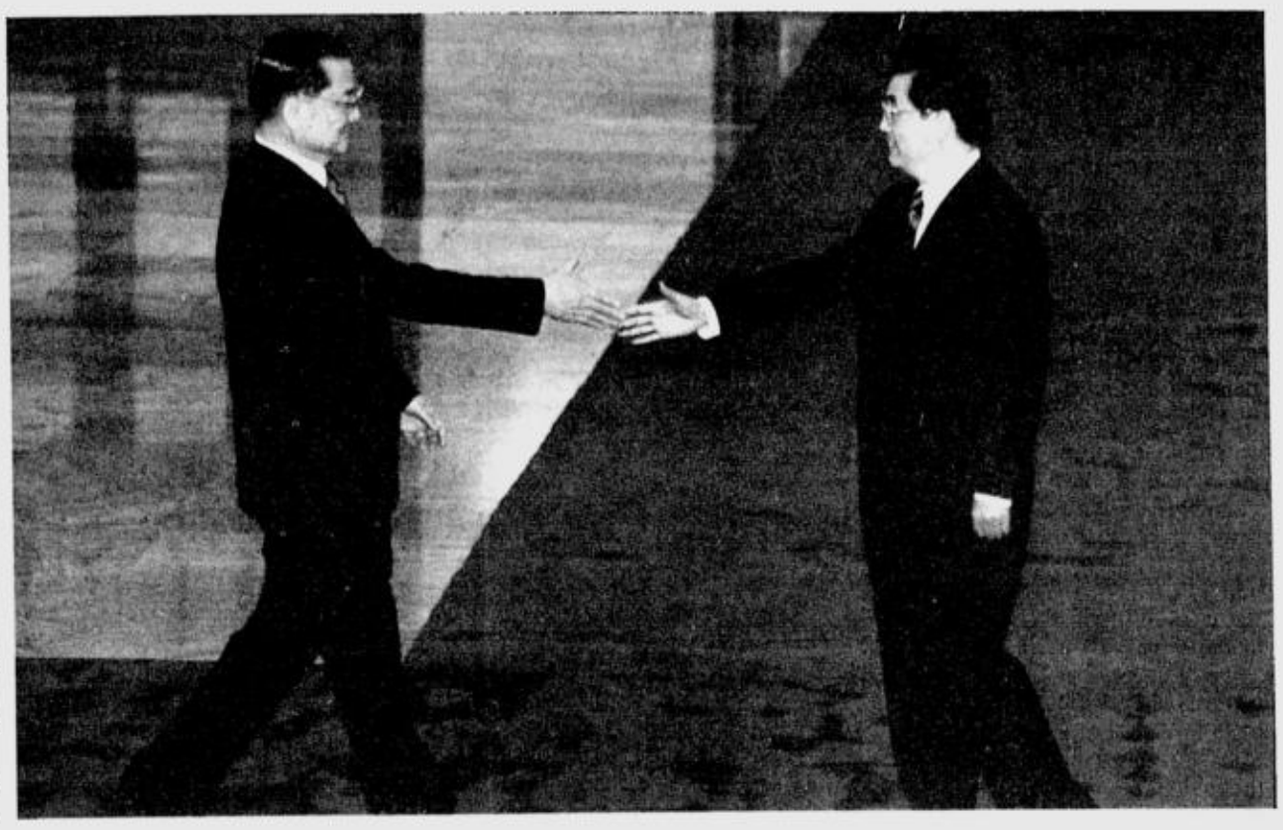
"To maintain the status quo is not something static, it is not something we should shrink from, it is not a passive thing," he said. "To maintain the status quo is one way we should avoid conflict. But the other way is to seek things in common from our differences and to accumulate goodwill."

Lien's trip, seen as a divide-and-conquer gambit by China to isolate the DPP, has come under fire at home.

"We are disappointed that he went to an enemy country and did not express the majority view of Taiwan people, which is that Taiwan is a sovereign independent country," the DPP's legislative whip, Chen Chin-jun, told a news conference.

"He did not stress this, and instead stressed the idea of a greater China. Where did he put the feelings of Taiwan people?"

Tension has simmered since passage of the Anti-Secession Law, which Beijing hopes will prevent Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, who defeated Lien in elections in 2000 and 2004, from pushing for formal independence for the island. *Reuters*



CHINESE President and Communist Party chief Hu Jintao (right) extends an arm for a historic handshake with Taiwan opposition leader Lien Chan during a meeting in Beijing April 29. REUTERS

Putin to offer aid during West Bank visit

RAMALLAH, West Bank—President Vladimir Putin on Friday became the first Russian leader to visit Palestinian territory where he was expected to offer aid for chairman Mahmud Abbas' threadbare security forces.

The trip follows negotiations in Israel—another historic first—and a two-day stop in Egypt. Moscow hopes the Middle East tour will boost its clout in the region, which has diminished since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Putin's convoy swept into the Palestinian leadership compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah, where he was greeted with a guard of honor and embraced by Abbas, less than three months after the two met in Moscow.

Putin then laid a wreath at the tomb of veteran Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who died last November, before private talks with Abbas.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow—a traditional ally of Arab powers—wants to see the Palestinian leadership strengthened in order to "rein in extremists, to ensure that all Palestinian groups obey the Ramallah leadership."

High on the agenda will be an offer to supply Palestinian security forces with 50 light armored personnel carriers, said the Palestinian envoy to Moscow, Khairi al-Aridi.

This provoked a complaint from an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who said the Palestinian Authority was not doing enough against its militant groups to be allowed to arm.

"We will not allow the Palestinians armored troop carriers as long as they dither in... a war against terrorism," the official said.

Lavrov said the idea was legitimate.

"This offer is not so much for Israel. This offer is for the Palestinians," Lavrov said.

Israel has also rebuffed a US proposal to arm Palestinian police officers in the West Bank to help put an end to the rampant lawlessness in the territory, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported Friday.

Abbas, who once lived and studied in Russia, used his first overseas trip after being elected Arafat's successor last January to visit Russia, which he said was testiment to Russia's key role in the Middle East. *AFP*

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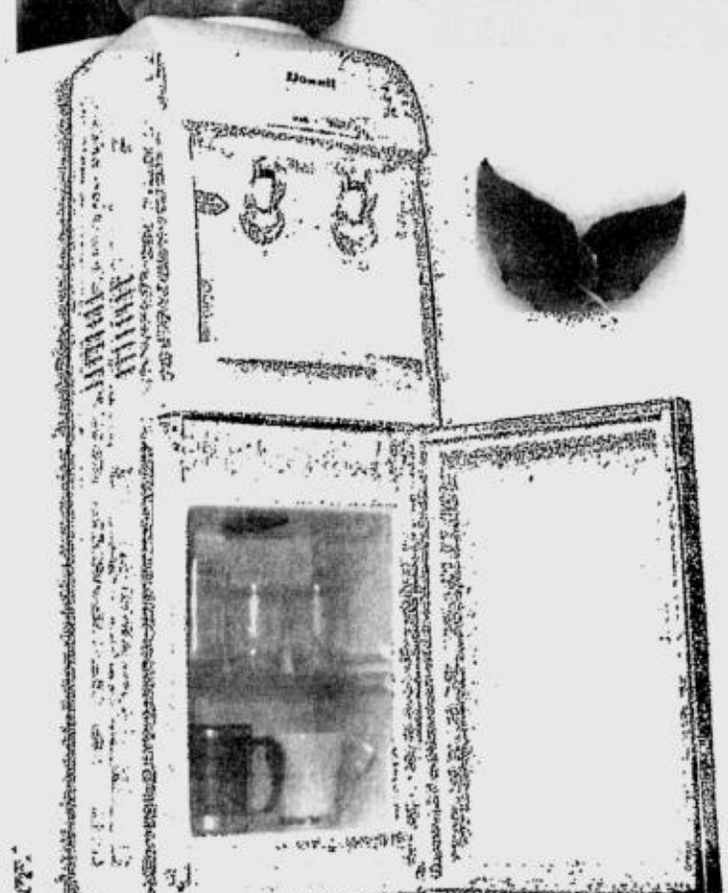

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9/11 hijackers booked airline tickets at library

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration revealed on Thursday that some of the Sept. 11 hijackers booked their tickets on the Internet using a computer in a college library in New Jersey.

The disclosure by Ken Wainstein, US attorney for the District of Columbia in testimony to the House of Representatives subcommittee on crime, terrorism and homeland security, was intended to bolster the government's argument that Congress should renew a law allowing it to seize library and bookstore records.

"Investigators tracing the activities of the hijackers determined that, on four occasions in August of 2001, individuals using Internet accounts registered to Nawaf Al Hazmi and Khalid Al Mihdar—9/11 hijackers—used public access computers in the library of a state college in New Jersey," Wainstein said.

He testified that computers in the library were used to review and order airline tickets on an Internet travel reservations site.

Al Hazmi and Al Mihdar were hijackers aboard American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon on Sept.

11. Their last documented visit to the library occurred 12 days before the attack when a person using Al Hazmi's account used the library's computer to review the reservations, Wainstein said.

He also said three other hijackers were identified as having visited a public library in Delray Beach, Florida. All three were later aboard planes that crashed into the World Trade Center in New York. Around 2,700 people were killed in the attacks.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has said there has been no substantiated allegation of abuse of the USA Patriot Act, which allows the government to seize library records.

It was approved shortly after the attacks, and 15 of its provisions, including the library and bookstore measure, expire at the end of this year.

Gonzales said the library provision, which applies to a wide range of business and personal records as well as libraries, has been used 35 times since September 2003, but never for library, bookstore, medical or gun-sale records.

Still, civil-liberties advocates and some lawmakers have sharply criticized the government for failing to release enough information about how it has been applied. Maine Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe said this week there should be more public disclosure.

James Baker, the justice department's intelligence counsel, told the subcommittee that last year a member of a group tied to al-Qaida used the Internet from a public library to communicate with fellow members.

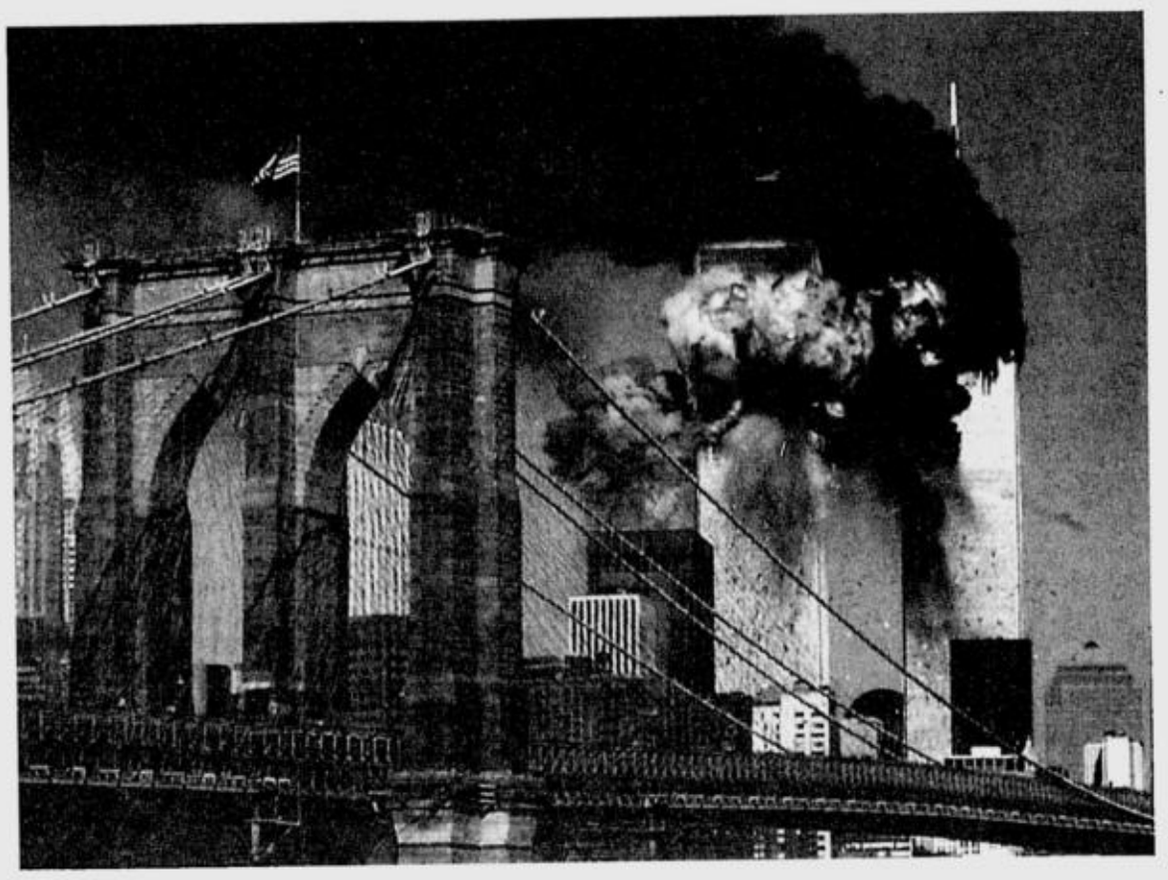
Gregory Nojeim of the American Civil Liberties Union told the House subcommittee the provision could allow the government to obtain records relating to thousands of Americans who have nothing to do with terrorism.

The House panel also heard testimony on another provision in the act which allows the government to obtain "roving surveillance orders" against suspected terrorists or spies.

They allow the government to wiretap every phone line, mobile communication device or Internet connection a suspect may use without having to identify the suspect by name. The law is intended to counter terrorists who frequently switch phones.

Previously, the authorities had to obtain a separate court order for every individual telephone they wanted to monitor.

Nojeim said the government should be forced to identify either the suspect or the communications device, as in the case in criminal cases. *Reuters*



SEPT. 11, 2001 photo shows both towers of New York's World Trade Center after being hit by hijacked commercial aircraft. REUTERS

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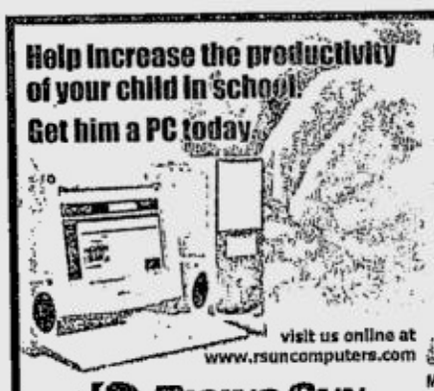

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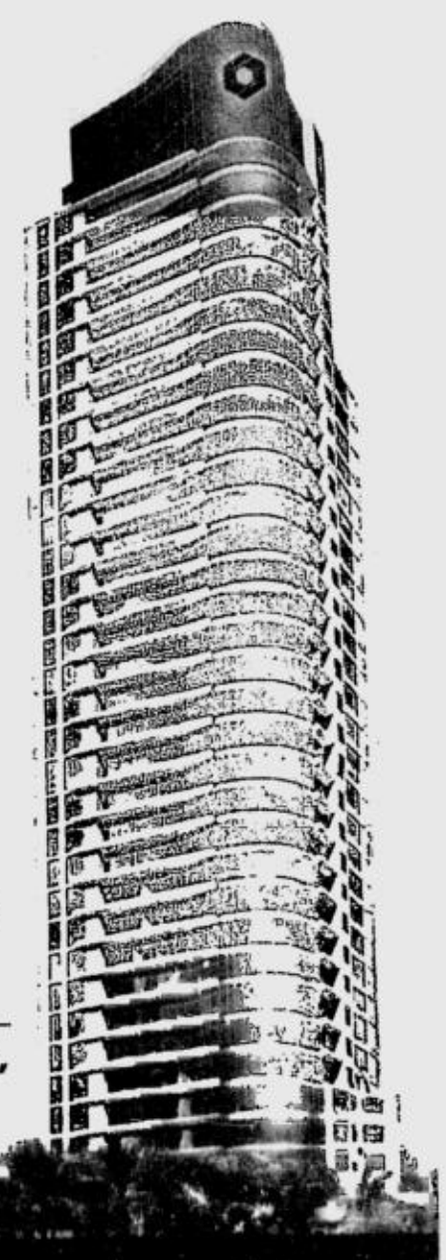

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Chavez, Castro defy US by forging oil agreement

VENEZUELA President Hugo Chavez, left, and Cuba President Fidel Castro greet people as they arrive at the "Simon Bolivar House" to inaugurate the offices of PDVSA Havana, Cuba, April 28. AP

HAVANA—Visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuban leader Fidel Castro have struck a potentially lucrative oil deal and opened a branch of a major Venezuelan bank here that will handle increasing trade between the two countries, in open defiance of the United States.

Both leaders Thursday showcased their growing cooperation by signing some 20 agreements they said were the first step toward a regional trade pact Chavez has proposed as a counterweight to the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) that joins Mexico, Canada and the United States.

"Alba is on its way," Chavez said Thursday, referring to the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas trade agreement he is pushing (Alba means dawn in Spanish).

"Alba, what a beautiful word and what great meaning it has," said Castro, 78, who, dressed in a smart business suit, attended with Chavez the opening in Havana of two offices for the Banco Industrial de Venezuela (BIV) and Venezuela's state-owned oil giant PDVSA.

Chavez's visit to Cuba, the 12th since he was elected to power in 1999, coincides with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's first major visit to Latin America. Chavez has been upstaging Rice throughout her weeklong tour—on Friday she was in Chile.

"Both our countries are going to show what a just and liberating integration, one that benefits both people is all about," said Castro of the agenda put together for Chavez's official visit.

The agreements signed by the two leaders provide for the development of Cuba's oil sector through PDVSA's technical and financial knowhow and for Cuba's purchase of some 412 million dollars' worth of goods from Venezuela.

Castro also agreed to exempt all Venezuelan goods imported through Alba from tariffs, custom duties and taxes levied in Cuba.

"No more custom duties for Venezuelan goods," Castro said late Thursday at the close of a meeting with Chavez on the technical aspects of the Alba regional trade agreement.

Under the terms of its agreement, PDVSA will work with Cuba "in prospecting and production (on new wells located in territorial waters) as well as in refining and marketing," the Venezuelan oil company said in a statement.

If PDVSA were to make a major find, or several significant ones, the shift could turn regional geopolitics upside down, potentially turning Castro's cash-strapped, oil import-dependent regime into a prosperous oil exporter able to fund itself well into the future.

Venezuela, Latin America's only member of the Opec oil cartel, in 2000 agreed to deliver 53,000 barrels of crude a day to Cuba, with a special credit rate for Chavez ally Castro. But that number has soared to 80,000-90,000 barrels a day, PDVSA chief Rafael Ramirez said here.

Venezuela is the world's fifth-largest oil exporter with a daily production of 2.6 million barrels.

Cuba, in return, helps Venezuela in public health, education and sport development projects. There are some 20,000 Cuban physicians, teachers and sports professionals serving as advisers in Venezuela.

The agreements are expected to boost trade between Cuba and Venezuela by $250 million over the $1.5 billion it reached in 2004, Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Raul de la Nuez said.

On leaving Bogota on Thursday, Rice was asked to comment on Venezuela's overtures to Cuba and Chavez's controversial brand of government that in the past has caused social unrest.

"It is well know that we have concerns about the Venezuelan government's activities in this region that can be destabilizing and the Venezuelan government's activities at home which call into question its commitment to democracy," said Rice. *AFP*

WEEK BEFORE ELECTION

Blair bows to pressure, bares Iraq legal advice

LONDON—With a general election just a week away and his integrity on the line, British Prime Minister Tony Blair bowed to pressure Thursday and made public the full text of the secret advice he received on the legality of the Iraq war.

His decision—a day after extracts of a 13-page minute from Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith were leaked to the media—represented a dramatic U-turn, after he steadfastly refused for months to make it public.

"You have probably got it all anyway. I see no reason not to publish it," Blair told reporters, before Downing Street published the full text on its website.

Until this week Iraq has largely been sidelined in the lead-up to the May 5 election, with opinion polls indicating that Blair and his Labour Party—campaigning hard on their glowing economic record—will win a third straight term.

The main opposition Conservative Party, which supported the war, has seized on the issue to call Blair's integrity into question. So too have the Liberal Democrats, which hope their unwavering anti-war stance will win them votes next Thursday.

During a press conference in London that was supposed to focus on Labour's policy on business, Blair said he had no regrets about taking Britain into the US-led invasion that led to the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

"Let's be frank about this," he said. "The key thing was, was the attorney general advising it was lawful to proceed? This smoking gun has turned out to be a damp squib, because he did advise it was lawful to proceed."

In the March 7, 2003 memo, stamped "secret," Goldsmith seemed to doubt whether Iraq could legitimately be attacked without one final UN resolution ordering Saddam to fully cooperate with UN inspectors and abandon his suspected development of weapons of mass destruction.

"In these circumstances, I remain of the opinion that the safest legal course would be to secure the adoption of a further resolution to authorize the use of force," Goldsmith wrote.

He went on to say that it would be "surprising" if there was no legal challenge from opponents of the war. He added: "We cannot be certain that they would not succeed."

Ten days later, however, Goldsmith told parliament that a US and British invasion without a final UN resolution—which France had threatened to veto at the UN Security Council—would be legal under international law. The war began three days later, on March 20, 2003.

Goldsmith said his advice was consistent, but the apparent differences in his opinions led opposition leaders to wonder if Blair had put pressure on him to justify war, just as it was alleged that the intelligence services were told to "sex up" the case for invasion.

"Mr. Blair had said the legal advice had not changed," said Conservative leader Michael Howard, who has taken to calling the prime minister a liar. "We now know beyond doubt that it had changed."

The issue surged again Thursday night during a special question-and-answer session broadcast live with Blair, Howard and Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy.

The prime minister was both booed and applauded loudly on the BBC's "Question Time," as he defended his actions but also stressed he respected those who disagreed with him.

"I don't expect everyone to agree with it ... but I'm afraid this was an occasion when there was no fence to sit on. I had to take a decision, and I took it," he said.

Kennedy, who was cheered by the audience over his opposition to the war, said Britain's 7,500 soldiers should be recalled from Iraq. *AFP*

DUTCH Queen Beatrix reacts prior to minting a coin marking the upcoming 25th anniversary of her reign in Utrecht, central Netherlands, April 28. Queen Beatrix was crowned on April 30, 1980. AP

Key Taliban commander killed, another arrested

AFGHAN girl Ferishta, 10, takes lessons in a school in Surkh Abat, a village about 45 km south of Kabul in Logar Province, Afghanistan, April 23. AP

KABUL—Afghan military forces have killed a key commander of the ousted Taliban militia and captured another important militant in south-central Afghanistan, the military said Friday.

Mullah Besmillah, a key Taliban leader in troubled south-central Uruzgan province, was killed in fighting with Afghan soldiers late Thursday when another militant, Mullah Abdul Manan, was captured, the official said.

"They were both the Taliban's key commanders in the region—their capture will have a major impact on security," Gen. Muslim Hamed, the military commander in southern Afghanistan, told AFP.

The clash was part of an operation by the Afghan military, backed by coalition troops, to hunt down militants in southern and southeastern Afghanistan, plagued by a Taliban insurgency.

"Our hunt for Taliban began last week and will continue until we root them out," the general said.

Remnants of the hardline Islamic Taliban regime ousted in a US-led operation in late 2001 have stepped up attacks on Afghan and coalition forces in the recent weeks.

Southern and eastern Afghanistan, rugged terrain along the Afghan-Pakistan border, have seen heavy clashes which have claimed dozens of lives, including of two coalition soldiers.

A US soldier was killed and another was injured Tuesday when Taliban militants attacked their unit in Uruzgan's troubled Deh Rawood district.

A Romanian soldier was killed last week in a suspected mine blast in neighboring Kandahar province, also hit by a wave of renewed attacks by Taliban militants.

More than 18,000 coalition troops, dominated by some 16,000 Americans, are in Afghanistan to help root out the Taliban.

The United States launched the operation to topple the Taliban after the fundamentalist regime refused to hand over al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, architect of the Sept. 11 attacks on Washington and New York. *AFP*

Dutch celebrate Queen Beatrix's silver jubilee

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands—Amsterdam is painting itself orange for a two-day celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Dutch monarch Queen Beatrix's coronation.

The city's central square has been transformed into an opera stage for a serenade of the 67-year-old queen Friday night, and more than a million visitors are expected to flock to the city for the Queen's Day holiday over the weekend.

On Saturday, parliament and the Cabinet will convene in the 13th century Hall of Knights in The Hague for a ceremonial session honoring the queen.

At Beatrix's coronation on April 30, 1980, protesters seeking better housing battled with police, and her decision to marry a Germany husband was controversial in a land that still resents its occupation in World War II.

But Beatrix has won the respect of the Dutch over the years with her straightforward, businesslike approach to running the House of Orange. She is seen as not only a ribbon-cutter, but also as a person able to unify the country at times of national mourning. She has also largely avoided the scandals that have plagued other European royal houses.

A poll by newspaper De Telegraaf last week showed almost 90 percent feel she does a good job as queen.

"I represent an institution that is by definition more traditional," Beatrix said in a rare television interview Thursday. "Still, you see the changes around you, and you try to remain alert the whole time, try to remain open to it, if the monarchy needs to adjust." *AP*

Swiss firm developing guilt-free, good-for-you chocolate

By Annika Breidthardt

ZURICH—A chocoholic's dream may be about to come true as Switzerland's Barry Callebaut develops a range of chocolate said not only to appeal to the taste-buds but also to protect the heart.

The world's largest producer of chocolate, Barry Callebaut is seeking out the health-conscious market and plans to offer not only "guilt-free," such as no-sugar, ranges but also "good-for-you" chocolate.

The company's secret is polyphenols, a natural ingredient in vegetables and fruit that are plentiful in cocoa beans but are partly destroyed in the process of making chocolate.

Polyphenols could prevent cancers and cardiovascular diseases, and tests in rats have already shown they can help improve memory and the ability to learn.

"What started this off is the so-called French paradox," Barry Callebaut's head of research, Dirk Poelman, said.

"People in the south of France live longer although they drink a lot of red wine and eat fatty cheese."

Red wine also contains polyphenols but Poelman said the levels in dark chocolate were double those in red wine, and four times higher than in green tea.

That could prove to be the firm's formula for success.

Barry Callebaut, whose own retail brands include Sarotti and Gubor, has developed a way of preserving the polyphenols in the process of making chocolate from the cocoa bean, to be sold under its Acticoa trademark.

The polyphenol-rich "good-for-you" chocolate as well as sugar-free "guilt-free" chocolate were launched in April in Belgium. A German launch will follow in May.

Because most of the polyphenols—antioxidants that are said to be good for cholesterol levels, blood pressure and long-term memory—are lost in fermentation, a proportion of beans in Acticoa chocolate are just washed but not fermented.

It is still early days for the project. Based in Switzerland, which has the highest per capita chocolate consumption in the world, the firm has yet to give sales targets or estimates of the size of the market for these new products.

"Indications so far have been very positive," Poelman said, adding that more studies should be completed in the second half of the year.

Barry Callebaut, created in 1996 by merging Callebaut with French rival Barry, has now teamed up with universities to scientifically prove the health benefits for humans of its polyphenol-rich chocolate.

"We can't make any claims yet so we are doing these tests," Poelman said. "The point with this chocolate is that you eat it because it tastes nice and then on top of that it can also be good for you."

For now, polyphenols seem to be a godsend only for lovers of dark chocolate.

"There is a debate about milk chocolate as it is not certain that the polyphenols are still active in combination with milk proteins," Poelman said. "The dark chocolate tastes like normal chocolate. It is for real dark chocolate fans." *AP*

23 killed as 9 car bombs explode around Baghdad

BAGHDAD—At least 23 people were killed and some 90 others wounded in a string of nine car bomb attacks targeting security forces in and around Baghdad early Friday, an interior ministry official said.

Deadly explosions also struck the Kurdish northern city of Arbil and the southern Shiite city of Basra.

The attacks came a day after parliament voted in the new government of Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, with several seats left vacant.

Thirteen people died, including seven soldiers and two policemen, and 50 were wounded, including 13 soldiers and two policemen, in four apparently coordinated car bomb attacks in two districts of the capital at about 8 a.m., the official said.

At least some of the cars were believed to have been driven by suicide drivers.

An AFP photographer saw the remains of one hand, believed to belong to a bomber, chained to the steering wheel of a burned out car.

Nine died, including four policeman and three interior ministry commandos, and 35, mostly civilians, were wounded when three more car bombs exploded in Madain, a town some 30 km south of the capital that was swept only 10 days ago by the Iraqi Army in search of insurgents.

An Iraqi soldier was killed and three injured by an eighth car bomb, which exploded next to an army convoy in an eastern district of the capital at around 10:30 a.m., security officials said.

The latest surge of attacks started around 7:30 a.m. when a bomb exploded just after a US convoy had driven by in the southern Dura district. There were no reported casualties.

A 10-year-old girl was wounded shortly afterwards when a mortar shell hit her home in the southern Dura district.

Dozens of explosions then rocked the city around 8 a.m., as car bombs targeted Iraqi police and army in the northern district of Adhamiyah and insurgents fired mortar shells into the area adding to the chaos.

Two more cars blew up near police targets in the eastern district of Saligh leaving scenes of widespread destruction.

In Madain at around the same time, a car bomb ploughed into a police vehicle at the entrance to the town. A second car bomb detonated outside a communications center and a third blew up near the local hospital.

Also Friday, a bomb disposal expert was killed and a civilian injured by an explosion in the Kurdish city of Arbil in northern Iraq, local police chief Fahrad Karim said.

And in the southern town of Basra, one border guard was killed and two injured by a bomb, hospital sources said.

The US military, meanwhile, said an American soldier was killed and five others were wounded in a bomb explosion early Thursday near ousted president Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in northern Iraq. *AFP*

POLICEMEN take cover as a bomb explodes in the district of New Baghdad April 29. REUTERS

'Missing' gorillas seen in Uganda

KAMPALA—A group of rare gorillas whose disappearance from a Ugandan reserve last year sparked rumors they had been snatched and taken to neighboring Rwanda have been spotted again, wildlife officials said here Friday.

After a five-month absence, the highly endangered mountain gorillas returned last week to their forest home in southwest Uganda's Mgahinga National Park and with two new additions, Uganda Wildlife Authority chief Moses Mapesa said.

"They went eight, but they have returned 10 with a new baby and another individual," he said.

The so-called "Nyakagezi group" of mountain gorillas, the species made famous by late naturalist Dian Fossey, had trundled out of the park in November, apparently unconcerned by the political border between Uganda and Rwanda that exists on human maps.

Although experts said the gorillas, which are known to roam in a 25-km radius in search of food, had likely left on their own volition, their disappearance proved a boon for conspiracy theorists.

Because their presence was a lucrative tourist draw for Uganda there had been a rash of speculation that unscrupulous people in rival Rwanda may have somehow lured them over the frontier to boost visits there.

Mapesa would not say how much money Uganda had lost during the months of their absence, but allowed that numerous would-be gorilla watchers had cancelled trips to Mgahinga because of it.

Tourists pay a whopping $360 per day to track the gorillas and spend one hour watching them in their native habitat where only about 700 are believed to live. *AFP*

Prominent Tamil journalist slain near Sri Lanka capital

TALANGAMA, Sri Lanka—A prominent Tamil journalist whose articles favored the mainstream Tamil Tiger rebels over a breakaway faction was fatally shot after being seized by attackers at a restaurant in the capital, police and colleagues said Friday.

Dharmeratnam Sivaram, 46, a board member of the pro-rebel TamilNet website and a columnist for Sri Lanka's English newspaper Daily Mirror, was abducted by four unidentified men at the restaurant in Colombo late Thursday and taken away in a jeep, witnesses said on condition of anonymity.

His body was found Friday with gunshot wounds to the head in a shrub near a lake, police officer Ashoka Gunasekara said. A colleague and family members confirmed the identity of the body, which was gagged with a red-and-white napkin.

No one claimed responsibility for the killing.

"We got an anonymous call saying a body was lying by the lake," said H.A. Somaratne, a police officer at the scene. A spent cartridge from a 9 mm pistol was found near Sivaram's body in Talangama, about 10 km outside Colombo.

Sivaram was Sri Lanka's best known Tamil Internet journalist and had been attacked and threatened in the past. In December 2001, he was stabbed and beaten by a group of men at his office in the eastern city of Batticaloa. No arrests were made in the assault.

His TamilNet website became popular for its reporting on the Sri Lankan civil war and the continuing process to find a permanent solution since a 2002 ceasefire halted the fighting. *AP*

Ex-wife says Jackson surrounded by 'vultures'

SANTA MARIA, California—Michael Jackson's ex-wife confounded expectations at his child sex trial Thursday, praising the singer as a "great father" and a generous man surrounded by "vultures."

Offered as a star witness by the prosecution, Debbie Rowe, 46, ended up sounding more like a character witness for the defense, despite her legal battle with Jackson for the right to visit their two children.

By the time she had completed her testimony, Jackson's lead lawyer had withdrawn a motion to have it stricken from the record.

"There's different Michaels. There's like my Michael," Rowe said, her voice breaking with emotion. "And there's the Michael that everyone else sees."

Called to testify about the circumstances surrounding a video interview she made extolling Jackson's parenting skills, Rowe completely rejected the prosecution's assertion that her words had been scripted.

Instead, Rowe told jurors that it was she who had instructed the videographer on which points she wanted included in the final edit.

"That he's generous to a fault, giving and kind," she said tearfully. "A great father, great with kids... a brilliant businessman."

As Rowe struggled to contain her emotions, Jackson, sitting opposite, was also seen dabbing at his face with a tissue.

A former nurse for Jackson's dermatologist, Rowe was married to the singer from 1996 to 1999 and bore him a son and a daughter, Prince Michael and Paris. He had a third child, Prince Michael II, with another woman in 2002.

Rowe's glowing portrayal of Jackson came despite the acknowledgement that he had effectively banished her after their divorce.

"I've always considered him a friend," Rowe said, adding "If he'd talk to me."

She also conceded that Jackson remained the main obstacle to seeing her children.

"He's their father. Ultimately it's his decision," she said.

Prosecutors had promised that Rowe would testify how Jackson had coerced her into doing the interview by linking her participation to a visit with her son and daughter.

The tactic was to draw a parallel between Rowe's story and that of Jackson's teen sex accuser, who was allegedly forced together with his family into praising the beleaguered pop icon on video.

Both video testimonies were intended to rebut the broadcast in early 2003 of a damaging documentary that showed Jackson holding hands with his accuser and admitting to sharing his bed with children.

Jackson, 46, is accused of molesting a 13-year-old in February or March 2003, plying him with alcohol and conspiring to hold his family captive. He faces up to 20 years in jail if convicted.

Rowe testified that she had agreed willingly when Jackson asked her to make the video, even though it was the first time the two had spoken in over three years. *AFP*

Italy PM wins confidence vote, but future looks grim

ROME—Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi won a final vote of confidence in his new government on Thursday but the talk in Italy was of how much longer he might survive as head of a fractious center-right alliance.

The debate goes well beyond the fate of the new cabinet, which even some of its own members believe may not last more than a few months, to the bigger question of whether Berlusconi—now 68—will be in politics this time next year.

The self-made billionaire, who burst into politics 11 years ago with a tailor-made party, has told coalition partners he will not run for re-election unless they form a single party.

"I don't see why voters should put their trust in a team that doesn't know how to stick together," he said in parliament after a bruising coalition row forced his temporary resignation.

Few political analysts believe firmly that Berlusconi is ready go.

They say a single party is unlikely given coalition rivalries, concern even among allies that Berlusconi wants too much power for the head of government and the absence of a natural successor to the media magnate.

One coalition party leader, Marco Follini of the Union of Christian Democrats (UDC), fired a clear warning at Berlusconi this week not to bank on leading a bloc into next year's vote.

"We can't slide toward 2006 as though everything was already decided—the structure of the coalition, the leader and even the result," Follini told the Chamber of Deputies. *AP*

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OPINION

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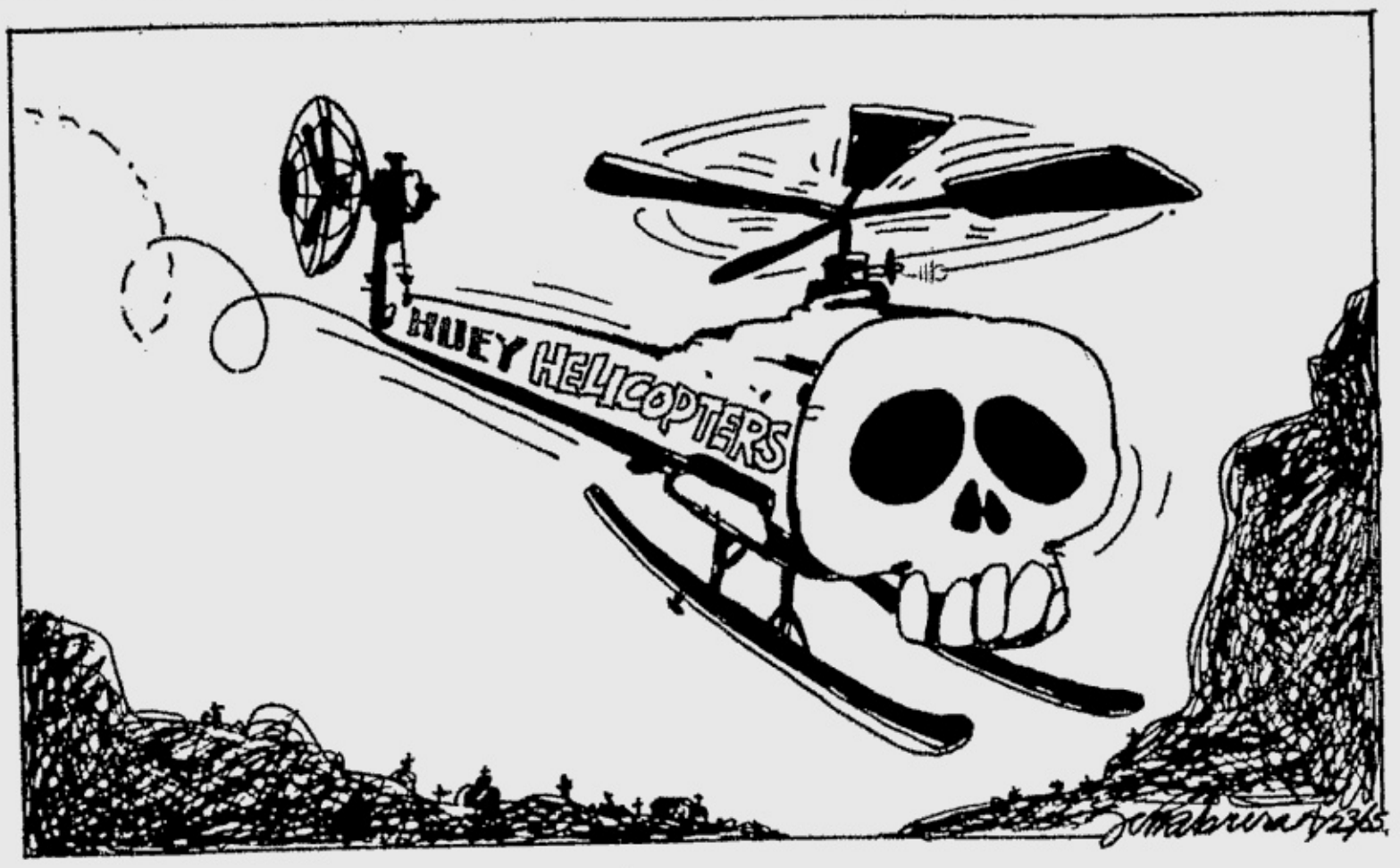

Charm offensive

EDITORIAL

WHEN Speaker Jose de Venecia beamed that the Philippines and China have embarked on a "golden age" in their bilateral relationship, he was reflecting the official views of both governments. The joint statement issued by Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo and Hu Jintao said exactly the same thing: China-Philippine relations have reached the golden age of partnership and the continuously developing friendly relationship between the two nations not only serves the fundamental interests of the two countries but also contributes to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

In the statement, the Philippines and China agreed to the usual things, such as maintaining frequent high-level contacts and exchanges and vigorously promoting economic cooperation and trade, as well as further strengthening cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure and mineral resources, not to mention increasing personnel exchanges and promoting defense and security cooperation. These are the usual diplomatic niceties. But world attention has focused on at least three things incorporated in the joint statement.

The first one was the Philippines' reaffirmation of its adherence to the one-China policy, and support (even "appreciation") for China's efforts to "peacefully resolve the Taiwan issue."

The second was the formal agreement by both sides to continue efforts to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea, which means a diplomatic solution to the disputed Spratly Islands. Both governments welcomed the signing of a Tripartite Agreement for Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking in the Agreement Area in the South China Sea by China National Offshore Oil Corp., Vietnam Oil and Gas Co. and Philippine National Oil Co., which sidesteps conflicting claims of sovereignty over the islands, and instead, proposes a purely economic, resource-sharing solution.

The third is the ratification of an undertaking achieved after a trip to Beijing by Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., in which China pledged to give the Armed Forces of the Philippines $1.2 million in aid. After the Chinese government indicated it was pushing through with the aid, Cruz was quick to suggest that the money would be used to "strengthen" its campaign against rebels such as the New People's Army. In truth, the aid will be used to buy engineering equipment such as bulldozers, graders, and dump trucks, and not bullets, as some Western media have reported. But still, it is a kind of propaganda coup for the government.

The government can also trumpet the implications of further talks to come. Cruz has already said both governments want to to explore the possibility of forging increased military ties, and that a "dialogue" will take place this month to explore "possible cooperation on maritime security and disaster coordination" as well as the possibility of joint sea border patrols and even joint military exercises. There is even the possibility of "interaction" between police and military forces, including sending cadets to each nation's military and police schools.

The most concrete manifestation, however, of China's charm offensive is the $500-million loan it extended for the north railway project. Talks on another loan for the south railway project, estimated to cost $200 million, are also in the works. Both projects are quite important to the present administration. They tie in with what Hu says is his government's aim to achieve $30 billion in annual trade with our country by 2010.

While it has been said that Chinese leaders like to think in centuries, in truth, the government of Hu Jintao seems inclined to fast-tracking the emergence of his country as a regional, if not global, power. In the 30 years since diplomatic relations with China were established, the Chinese have proven adept at using their country's increasing military, and tremendously rising economic, importance to clearly laying claim to being the dominant power in the region.

This is reflected in the Philippines' shift from a unipolar to a three-power oriented policy, which views, as Ms Arroyo put it, the three important partners of the Philippines as the United States, Japan and China. Two parties in this regional diplomatic order are allies: Japan and the United States. The two are increasingly at odds, economically and militarily, with China. And while its treaty relations put it firmly inside the American camp, the Philippines is finding itself increasingly wondering if China isn't the country best able to "show us the money."

The other extreme

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE is a small street back of the University of the East in Sampaloc, Manila, called Alejandro VI. It was obviously named after Rodrigo de Borja, or Borgia in Italian, who became the pope in 1492 until his death in 1503. That street should never have been named after him, and should be renamed unless this has already been done by a penitent city. Rodrigo Borgia does not deserve that honor, small though it is. Pope Alejandro VI was a "scandal" and a black blemish on the seat of St. Peter.

Rodrigo de Borja was a Spaniard whose mother was the sister of Pope Calixtus II. The uncle prepared his nephew for high religious office, beginning with his appointment as vice-chancellor of the curia in Rome and cardinal when he was only 26. While still a layman, he had a mistress called Vannozia, with whom he sired four children including Cesare Borgia and the beautiful Lucrezia Borgia. Even when he was already Pope Alexander VI, he maintained adulterous relations with other women, notably Giulia, with whom Lucrezia lived in the papal chambers. He did not conceal his immoral affairs, which were accepted by the public, perhaps as part of the culture of the times, although other popes were not as licentious.

Pope Alexander VI was elected by a corrupt conclave. It is said that the deciding vote was cast by a 96-year-old cardinal who did not know what he was doing but was persuaded with an enormous bribe to support Rodrigo. The enormous pageantry of the new pope's coronation presaged the ostentation and luxury of his 11-year reign as head of the medieval church. It derived much of its wealth from the sale of clerical appointments, dispensations for the gullible faithful, confiscations of the wealth of political opponents, bribes for the admission of Jews, Muslims, and other non-Christians to Rome, and other illicit sources. His open partiality toward Spaniards and the many privileges he gave them in Rome caused much resentment among the natives who felt they were being excluded by the foreigners.

His son Cesare helped the all-too-practical pope in strengthening his spiritual influence and temporal power over the Christian world. Alexander VI was not averse to concluding a military alliance with the Muslim Sultan of the Ottoman Empire to prepare against an expected attack by Charles VII of Catholic France. The pope abandoned his close friend Cardinal Orsini and confiscated all his properties. In 1494, he mediated in the conclusion of the Treaty of Tordesillas, now regarded as void *ab initio*, that drew a demarcation line dividing control of the open seas and the outlying territories between Spain and Portugal.

Alexander VI was a patron of the arts which he encouraged and supported with the active assistance of the lovely Lucrezia. Some say he had incestuous relations with his daughter but this perversity, while believable, has not been proven. Cesare was generally regarded as the murderer of his brother Giovanni, of whom the pope was especially fond. Rodrigo did not speak to Cesare for some time because of this but in the end transferred all his slain son's properties in trust to his supposed killer. Cesare's power increased while his father lived but soon declined with the pope's decreasing popularity and eventual death.

There was an interesting novel I read a few years ago about Pope Alexander VI but I can't remember its title or author. I searched for it one whole morning but couldn't locate it in my jumbled so-called library. I do recall it was very absorbing reading based on the life of this extraordinary man with enough fictional embellishment to make him a very attractive character. Heels usually are, especially the sanctimonious ones.

So why have I written about Pope Alexander VI when there are other worthier persons from the Holy See who deserve our attention and respect? I add "veneration" because many of his predecessors and successors have been canonized as saints by the Catholic Church, unlike our doubtful hero whose only tribute of our municipal authorities is the naming of that small street—a humble and unfamiliar byway, really—after him. For all we know, it may even have already been renamed in favor of some small-time barangay captain with the usual erotic flair but not Alexander's extravagant greed for material things and not for the eternal verities. These only took second place in the pope's system of priorities.

As a fitting finale to his unworthy life, Alexander VI died of an undetermined disease, some say of poisoning, a despised and dishonored man whom there were very few to mourn. His corpse became so putrid and blackened that Pope Pius III described it as a "blasphemy." Forcibly fitted into a coffin too small for the bloated body, it was then unceremoniously interred as if to erase all memory of him. It was an unseemly end for a Prince of the Church who, in his colorful if gaudy life, enjoyed the best of everything, and also the worst.

Compared to the saintly Pope John Paul II, Alexander VI, the most notorious and corrupt among the unholy pontiffs, embodied the other extreme.

Bad news and good news

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THIS week, there has been a lot of news. Let's look at the bad news first, not necessarily in chronological order or order of importance.

That court decision in the Karen Vertido case sounds like the pits. I may change my mind after I read the decision in toto, but given the news reports, that is doubtful.

A rape case is always a he-says-she-says situation, but judicial logic was strained to the utmost in finding for the defendant Jose Custodio. I don't know, for example, what the judge's basis is for concluding that a man in his 60s (Custodio was 61, apparently, when the rape occurred) cannot possibly have the physical stamina to keep his penis up in the face of resistance from his victim. Just because hormones may no longer be raging when one reaches 60, it doesn't follow that a man can't get it up anymore (ask any 61-year-old male); neither does it follow that resistance from the desired partner automatically acts as a turn-off—the exact opposite may be the case.

The judge, ignoring expert medical testimony, preferred to believe that (1) Vertido, being 42, and therefore no longer young and inexperienced, should have screamed and carried on if she thought she was going to be raped. Does that mean that at that age, Karen must have already experienced being raped and should have already known what to do? That she no longer is entitled to feelings of disbelief and denial that this could be happening to her, and from her boss at that; or feelings of fear of resulting scandal that could paralyze her? Good grief.

The judge obviously preferred to believe the Custodio defense that he and Vertido were lovers, and that she brought up the rape charges because the relationship had turned sour. If that is her belief, then certain questions present themselves. First, if Custodio's testosterone levels were low (being in his 60s and all), why was he having an extra-marital relationship? Second, if he was breaking off the relationship, why do it in a motel, especially if his sexual prowess was weak (being in his 60s and all) to begin with, and further weakened because he was no longer attracted? Finally, if Vertido indeed was humiliated by the fact that he was breaking off with her, why would she choose a path which would lead to even greater humiliation even as the chances for success (since she was making it all up) were so slim?

Can anyone really think that Vertido chose to file rape charges, knowing what the backlash on her family, her career and her life would be, just to satisfy her wounded pride? Carry on your fight, Karen. We are behind you.

Then there is Haydee Yorac's resignation. Let's face it, there are so few people working in government with unquestioned competence and integrity. Haydee is one of them. As far as I am concerned, she and people like her should be considered national treasures and treated accordingly. So when someone like her resigns, that is bad for the good guys.

It would be worse, if she had been forced or pressured to resign. Was she? I would like to believe she was not, for a number of reasons: one is that if there was indeed any pressure, the Haydee I know, the fighter, would never buckle under it. She would apply in-your-face counterpressure, and name names. The second is that Haydee has been battling cancer, and it may need her full concentration. The third is that Haydee's stint in government has been for her a great financial sacrifice (she would be earning millions as a private lawyer), and she may no longer be able to afford it, given past and future medical expenses.

To settle all doubts, however, Haydee's resignation letter should be made public. And it would certainly help if President Macapagal-Arroyo showed a little more reluctance to accept her resignation and a little more gratitude for the service that Haydee has rendered the country. Thank you, Haydee.

So what's the good news? It's actually great. BIR's Willy Parayno is going after alleged tax cheats in a big way—not only naming and shaming, but even more important, filing the requisite charges that have a greater chance of sticking, because the computerization of the BIR has made tracking the activities of tax cheats much easier. Getting the cooperation of civic and religious groups (e.g. Archbishop Oscar Cruz for the fight against *jueteng* lords) is also going to be a big help. Way to go, Willy. Don't mind the fault-finders and nit-pickers.

However, don't let your guard down. One taxpayer I know paid P300,000 in income tax and was issued a receipt of P25,000. Another paid about P2.3 million and got a receipt for P200,000. Unfortunately, they are afraid to blow the whistle for fear of being harassed in the future. It would be a pity if in focusing on stitching up some holes in your tax net, your people are busy opening up other holes.

And the best news of all, at least as far as I am concerned. It turns out that the Constitution (Art. VI, Sec. 27 [2]) gives the President the power to line-item veto not only appropriations bills but also revenue and tariff bills. Which means, folks, that assuming a VAT bill is passed, she can veto all those exemptions and zero-ratings given by the legislature to favored sectors. There is justice in the world.

Of course, the question does arise: How come President Fidel Ramos did not veto the poison-pill provision in the 1997 sin tax? But more about that later.

Rare bureaucrats

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN A FORTNIGHT of unfortunate developments, surely the death of former Phivolcs director Raymundo Punongbayan in a helicopter crash has to be the most widely lamented. Punongbayan, who retired from the agency in 2003, when he turned 65, was a rare kind of bureaucrat: always working and working hard, stirring up no controversy, his name unsullied by any scandal. Through the difficult decade of the Pinatubo disaster—from the eruption to the long aftermath, when huge funds to contain the lahar were poured into a seemingly bottomless pit—it was always reassuring just to hear Punongbayan's voice, as he discussed related issues with the calm and dispassion of a true scientist. When he spoke on natural calamities nobody questioned it. Truly he had made Phivolcs, to quote his successor and former student, Renato Solidum Jr., "a credible scientific institution."

* * *

It was perhaps fitting that Punongbayan would meet his end the way he did, checking on the potential dangers of a relocation area with the oncoming rains. People in agencies like Phivolcs, most of them nameless and faceless to the public, live dangerously as they carry out their vital tasks. The nation also mourns the other officials and personnel of Phivolcs who also perished in the crash.

"Who would check the other places now?" mourned Solidum. His lament gains added poignancy when one considers that nowadays, few find a Phivolcs job attractive, owing to the low pay, the rigorous training needed and the many dangers they are exposed to. Others in that agency will just have to carry on as best they can the tasks left by their ill-fated colleagues. This is the best way to honor their memory.

So, too, does the nation mourn the death of the chopper's young skipper, Lt. Reynaldo Gerodias (PMA Class '99), and his crew, who also died while on the job. It was doubly tragic for Gerodias' family, since he went to Manila for a vacation, but when duty called, he answered it, as countless PAF personnel do. The Phivolcs and PAF personnel are among the heroes in our midst, whose valor and fidelity to duty people oftentimes fail to see and appreciate since what gets into the headlines all too often is only the corruption and poor performance in government.

* * *

As for PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, who resigned recently, I suspect it was a combination of factors that led her to do so. There's her poor health, which the PCGG job can only aggravate, even without "pressures" from Malacañang. She also said the pay is too low to help her sustain her treatment for cancer. I also suspect that last week's Senate hearing on the Agusan Valley project helped hasten her decision to quit. Under questioning by Sen. Serge Osmeña, even Haydee Yorac could not say for sure how the coco levy funds were spent and being spent. That's how muddled this issue has become, thanks to Eduardo Cojuangco's continuing hold on those funds. It's time to ask why this is so.

* * *

As with Punongbayan's death, the nation regrets Haydee's return to private life and law practice. What preceded her to the PCGG was her solid reputation for integrity and toughness (the frizzy-haired Comelec commissioner came to be known as the tamer of the Lion of Lanao, Ali Dimaporo), and these assets worked well for her. Her successor, the amiable PCGG Commissioner Camilo Sabio, does not have that reputation for feistiness, but he should bring to his new post all the integrity and love for country he can muster. Those are all he needs. Good luck to him.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo's private lawyer, Romy Macalintal, adds a tidbit to my earlier observation about GMA's boundless energy. I had written that the 36 hours of her delegation's stay in Rome for Pope John Paul II's funeral were packed with activities and that during the long flight to Manila, she barely managed to sleep off and on. But before landing that Saturday, April 9, she had already changed to "working clothes" (black pants and white cotton shirt). Upon arrival, she was off with Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to Farmer's Market in Cubao, Quezon City, where Sen. Mar Roxas met them and they monitored prices of commodities and discussed problems concerning the delivery of goods.

Macalintal wrote that the following day, April 10, he fulfilled a *panata* to have Mass said in thanksgiving for the resolution by the Supreme Court of the protest case filed by the late Fernando Poe Jr. against his client. He informed GMA about the Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church at the Philamlife Village in Las Piñas, where he used to pray daily for the success of her case. GMA showed up for the Mass without fanfare and later joined the surprised parishioners at the *merienda* hosted by the parish priest, Msgr. Manuel Sebastian, and agreed to a photo session with them and their families. Among the most excited was Macalintal's 85-year-old mother, Bienvenida, who told GMA "it's the first time for me to meet a president in person in my life."

* * *

A crucial apostolate for these times, when the family is threatened from all sides, is helping couples save troubled marriages. For those who missed the February Retrouvaille weekend, Retrouvaille Manila, a ministry for troubled marriages affiliated with the Toronto-based Retrouvaille International, will conduct another weekend healing seminar from May 13-15 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Tagaytay City. The seminar has helped many married couples get together again and rekindle their love. In fact, there have been instances when it was the children who contacted Retrouvaille to enroll their parents and some even drove their parents to Tagaytay. For details, call Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-902-0511, Nes and Inday at 0916-443-8346, or Ding and Belen at 0916-573-0097.

CAP and Pacific's real sins

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY SOME fluke, I happen to have bought two college education plans for my two children from the two pre-need companies facing a host of troubles, from planholder revolt and threats of class-action suits to regulatory heat and capital shortfalls.

My son managed to finish his multi-media arts course with (very) little help from Pacific Education Plans, while we have yet to tap the investment we made in College Assurance Plan, mainly because the thought of elbowing my way through an angry mob at the CAP offices scares the bejeezus out of me.

Anyway, judging from the coverage of the scandals besetting the pre-need companies, some of which are even sympathetic, it seems that most everyone thinks the planholders are protesting "only" a breach of contractual obligations, and are worried "only" about not being able to pay for their children's education. (I say "only" because these are major and valid complaints in themselves.) But there's more behind the anger and frustration that the planholders feel, and perhaps recalling how my husband and I fell for the blandishments of these pre-need firms can help explain these feelings.

We were in our 30s at the time we bought the education plans and while we were pretty secure, the amounts involved were not exactly negligible. At the time, we believed that we were at our "peak earning capacity," and the plans were "insurance" against the possibility that our children would come of college age when illness or disability would have driven us to unemployment and penury.

That scenario has not played out, knock on wood, but that's thanks to good genes and the miracles of science, though if CAP reneges on its obligations, I don't know what that'll do to my blood pressure.

* * *

WE have always believed, as did my parents, that the only material obligation parents owed their children was the very best education within their means.

The college education plans were our way of ensuring that whatever happened to us, we would still be able to protect our children's future, mainly by enabling them to go to college. An additional draw was the prospect of enjoying worry-free years toward the end of our working lives, ensuring a comfortable retirement. In short, we were buying peace of mind, reassurance that we had secured our children's future and done our best by them.

This is what CAP and Pacific Plans have stolen from their planholders, not so much our children's education and future, but our peace of mind. Even if Pacific Plans and CAP succeed in making good the promises they made to the holders of maturing plans, they have already shattered the relationship of trust they used to enjoy with their clients and the cushion of assurance that their clients relied on when they turned over their hard-earned money to their agents.

In fact, the viability of the two companies was a question my husband raised when I broached the idea of buying college plans. But my friends as well as the agents who were selling me the plans (they were also friends) assured me of their stability and track record. And there was no reason to doubt their word. CAP was the first and biggest pre-need company in the country, and by the time I bought a plan, it had already sent hundreds of scholars to college. Pacific Plans, meanwhile, had the resources of the Yuchengco Group of Companies behind it, a factor that quieted whatever fears we might have harbored about our decision.

* * *

I REALLY felt my hackles rising during the "Debate" episode on GMA-7 last Thursday when a representative of Pacific Plans told off the noisy planholders to be "honest to yourselves" and admit that while they had paid only about P20,000 for their plans, they were expecting the company to pay for tuition rates as high as P80,000.

But that is precisely what Pacific Plans had promised the planholders! The major come-on was the savings planholders would make in the future, given that tuition fees were rising steadily and might be well beyond their capacity to pay when the time came for the children to go to college (and even high school).

Defenders of CAP and Pacific Plans have been pointing a lot of accusing fingers in many directions: the government for instituting a deregulation regime among educational institutions, allowing them to raise charges with impunity; the Asian regional monetary crisis in the mid-1990s that wreaked havoc on their projections; the SEC for issuing new rules and preventing them from selling "open-ended" plans; even their clients, for being so stupid as to buy into their marketing ploys.

But if, as they now realize, their entire business plan was flawed, that is their and their analysts fault, and certainly, the planholders are as much, if not bigger, victims as they are.

* * *

IT'S long been a lament that Filipinos have among the lowest savings rate in the world (we have the lowest in the region, if I'm not mistaken).

But if Filipinos are to develop the habit of putting something away for a rainy day, they must first develop the habit of trusting our financial institutions, including banks. But the spate of scandals, scams, bank closures and fraudulent transactions give us the working class little reason to trust in our so-called institutions.

The couples and families who have invested in education plans can be counted among the more forward-looking citizens, the few who see beyond immediate rewards and are willing to delay gratification for a long-term goal.

What CAP and Pacific Plans have done is to underscore the futility of planning one's life and future in a country where regulations favor not those who need protecting, but those who profit from their naiveté.

Another point of view

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN DISCUSSIONS of the 1896 Revolution, the lack of popularity of the Spanish friars is a given. Whether this attitude was a nationwide phenomenon or confined to a group and blown up is not subject to debate. Yet there is evidence that many times the townspeople themselves protected their Spanish parish priests and weren't exactly overjoyed by some of the acts of the Katipuneros.

In John Taylor's accounts, the possibility of a different version arises. For instance, one of the hottest issues discussed for decades was the issue of the friar lands. We all know there is such a thing as the spoils of war, familiar to us in recent history since the fall of Marcos. In this case, we are informed that the property of the Church was "confiscated" and that of Spaniards "embargoed." Taylor says no distinction was made by Aguinaldo and his men between the two words. "The houses of Aguinaldo and his generals were furnished from the belongings of Spaniards, all title deeds were systematically destroyed or hidden, and administrators appointed for the property whose limits henceforth were known only to the men who had seized it."

Somewhere in the archives of the United States are inventories apparently of things taken from the friars, but these we are informed are "vague" and mention mainly broken lamps, unserviceable carriages and worn-out furniture.

There was no accounting, which sounds uneasily familiar. Landed property passed on to "the strongest" of Aguinaldo's men. There is evidence of some auctions, but mainly land was just taken. No inventories were made and protests filed even by Spaniards married to Filipinas were ignored or the letters disappeared. In Cagayan in October 1898, Mabini actually ordered the confiscation of one-half the value of all property of Spaniards married to Filipinas, and if they didn't pay up, the property was to be seized.

There were documents held by Aguinaldo from Spanish prisoners stating they weren't robbed. Yet in September 1898, Aguinaldo ordered all property, moveable or immovable, furniture, money, jewelry taken under military custody. There was another order from the treasurer of the Aguinaldo government for the confiscation of all property of Spaniards in Isabela. No inventory of "embargoed" property was found in Tarlac, the headquarters of the government in 1899.

There is evidence that the prisoners were not necessarily treated brutally. One only has to remember the Vietcong and the Khmer Rouge to be thankful that Filipinos do not seem to have an appetite for ingenious ways of torture. Since the prisoners had lost everything, towns were ordered to feed them and a small allowance was given them by the wealthy of the town.

In July 1899, the towns were ordered to give each Spanish soldier 5 centavos a day and one and a half pints of rice. The friars where to have the same ration of rice but 5 cents in gold.

Eventually prisoners were farmed out and put to work by people who were to be responsible for them. In most cases, the civilians didn't hold any animosity toward them, according to the account. Apparently the people were actually sympathetic and allowed many of them to escape. Aguinaldo had to threaten to court martial whoever aided the escape.

In January 1899, one letter to Aguinaldo denounced the treatment of Spanish prisoners by his men for beating and abusing "the poor Spanish prisoners who after all had done nothing but obey their orders."

It appeared to the Americans that the leaders of the "insurrection" not only hated the friars but feared them. It seems they were afraid the priests would be able to influence the people to revolt against Aguinaldo so that they were separated from their parishes and treated in a manner calculated to degrade them.

In Tarlac and Pangasinan, an organization called "Guards of Honor," earlier formed to guard the statue of Our Lady of the Rosary, gave the Katipuneros a lot of trouble. They had no use of "Tagalog domination," its members claimed. One of them said when interrogated that the Ilocanos of Batac were planning to rise up and kill the Tagalogs "for the reason that honors were granted only to the Tagalogs and but few to the Ilocanos." In the end, these "guards" aided the Americans against Aguinaldo's men.

The Yankees believed Aguinaldo found it necessary to remove the friars from the parishes because of their influence and their ability to unite the people against him. The Americans doubted that 80 percent of the people actually hated the priests and warned that anti-friar statements were to be taken with reservations because it seemed that it was not sufficient to expel the friars or even to order their murder.

In August 1898, Agoncillo wrote to Aguinaldo from Hong Kong that the latter should issue a secret decree "to kill the (captured) friars. They should be frightened." The revolutionaries demanded and apparently believed it necessary that some superior power declare that no Spanish priests were ever to return to the Philippines. It is possible they thought that if the friars were given their old responsibilities, they would soon recover their power because if it was true that the people hated them then this move to have them declared "persona non grata" by a foreign power was unnecessary since Filipinos themselves would have refused their teachings.

The subject should be an interesting topic of debate for history majors.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

All in a day's work

YOUNG BLOOD

Jed M. Eva III

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'VE always believed in the dignity of labor. I'd like to think that the nobility of one's work—any kind of work—isn't defined by one's particular occupation, but by the manner one practices it and the happiness one derives from the job.

It is comforting to know there are others who share this view. But it came as a surprise to many that the Supreme Court's most outstanding employee wasn't a lawyer, but a clerk. His lack of a law degree didn't keep the judges (composed of the senior associate justice of the Supreme Court and the presiding justices of other appellate courts) from recognizing excellence when they saw it—proof that intelligent people know that an individual's worth isn't reflected by one's title, rank or salary.

Unfortunately, title, rank and salary matter a lot to the majority of Filipinos. Most of our people reserve their highest esteem for the members of certain professions like medicine, law, engineering, accounting and architecture. Conversely, they have a very low regard for those who aren't in these professions, including those in theater (no money), music (merely a hobby), visual arts (a pastime), or government service (financially unrewarding).

Only recently, a lawyer-friend of mine told her office mate that if she had a choice, she would have pursued a career in theater rather than going to law school. Her office mate, a law graduate (not yet a lawyer, mind you) responded, "Theater *lang*?"

I find it strange that many Filipinos consider theater (and other performing arts, for that matter) as second-rate, because this is one profession in which many extremely talented Filipinos have made their mark on the world stage, like Lea Salonga, Monique Wilson, etc.

Some time back in my past, just before I handed in my application for admission to the University of the Philippines, I learned that the quickest way to give a parent a heart attack—or to trigger hypertension—is to answer "fine arts" if one is asked what course he wants to take. I can still remember the incredulity on my father's face (as well as many others) when I wasted (according to them) my (supposed) brains by choosing to study visual communication in college instead of pre-med, pre-law, or any other course that was supposed to prepare me for a high-paying job that would bore me to death.

Such disdain for artists and those belonging to supposedly less prestigious professions is almost universal in Philippine culture, even among the more educated. One time, a doctor asked what I did for a living.

"I'm into graphic design, and I write," I replied.

"Okay," he said, "but what is it that you do?"

I wonder how the good doctor would have reacted if he knew a friend of mine who left the UP College of Law in her third year so she could pursue her lifelong affair with the written word. He would have probably said, "What a waste!"

And he wouldn't be alone. Most of those reading this are likely to echo his words.

But maybe they should define "waste." Had my friend finished law and passed the bar, she would be making lots of money doing something she doesn't like for the rest of her life. Instead, she is now being paid to write—something that she would do for free, something she does well and truly loves.

My friend was lucky to have parents (both of whom—surprisingly—are lawyers) who respected her wishes. Most other students, however, are not as fortunate. Far more common are parents who push their children to take college courses they (the kids) don't like, forcing them to pursue careers that they won't love.

Most will say, however, that parents such as these cannot be faulted for looking after their children's best interests. "Interests" being their children's (and perhaps, their own) financial security, not the things they're actually interested in. It isn't surprising that Philippine society accepts this kind of ram-it-down-your-throat career guidance counseling, the kind that puts more value on how much money one can earn rather than the individual's desire to pursue a particular career.

This phenomenon is another manifestation of the materialism inherent in our culture, the materialism that fuels the bias that will ensure that the potentials of talented artists will never be realized; that there will always be a short supply of NGO workers; and that government will continue to lose the best and the brightest of our youth to the private sector.

Money can't be our only reason for living. What motivates you? What really moves you? Love of country? Art? Numbers? The high gained from making a stage and your body form a living, breathing canvas? Solving the mysteries of our tax code? Or the satisfaction you derive from knowing that in your job—no matter how low-paying—you can help others?

On campuses and in cubicles everywhere, there are unhappy souls who have sacrificed their hopes and their dreams to live out the hopes and dreams of others. The sooner we realize that there are things infinitely more valuable than money, rank and privilege, the better it will be for those of us whose only real motivation for waking up each morning is our paychecks.

Jed M. Eva III, 29, works in the Supreme Court.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Broken bridge

"We are struggling to come out with a positive image for all Muslims by bridging the gap between Christianity and Islam, and now this incident."

—Alimatar Garangan II, Shahab Bangsamoro secretary general, expressing disappointment over the shooting incident involving Muslims while a press conference was being held

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An article with tremendous cultural, economic impact

WHEN the National Commission for Culture and the Arts brought your senior reporter Jerry E. Esplanada to Palanan, Isabela to participate in our Sabutan Festival—an eco-tourism fiesta named after the shrub "*sabut*" which we use as weaving material—last March 30, we did not know that the article he was to write would have a tremendous impact—culturally and economically—on our struggling, third-class municipality.

Thanks to the front-page article "Agta lass makes Sierra Madre history," (PDI, 4/11/05) the Sabutan Festival was made known to the public, and our festival queen, Juliet Chavez, was thrust into the national limelight when the INQUIRER called her "the first member of the Agta tribal community in the Northern Sierra Madre region to join—and win—a beauty contest."

Chavez and Palanan—known only in Philippine history as the place where Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo made his last stand and where he was captured by American forces—caught the interest of TV stations, with GMA-7 now doing her inspiring life story in "Magpakailanman," a TV show hosted by Mel Tiangco.

At the International Earth Day celebration at the Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila last April 22, Chavez joined officials of the NCCA, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Culture (OPAC), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Baseco Corp., EarthSavers Movement, Embassy of Israel, Haribon Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Gawad Kalinga, GMA-7 and the City of Manila in planting trees, an activity that is part of the "eco-greening program" for Baseco.

Capping all these, our Palanan float at the Aliwan Festival parade (April 23) which depicted the Kulyawan bird—one of the endangered species that can be found in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range—and designed using colorful *sabutan* raw materials from the *sabutan* plants that grow along the coastal areas of Palanan, was adjudged the best float and won P500,000 as cash prize.

Also, as a result of your article and our winning feat, Unilever Philippines has ordered 600 pieces of "*sabutan* hand fans" for corporate giveaways. The order will generate much-needed income for my poor Agta constituents.

So our special thanks to the INQUIRER, OPAC and NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez for helping Palanan share its wealth, history, traditions, creativity and the richness of our culture with the rest of the world.

—NATIVIDAD A. BERNARDO, mayor, Palanan, Isabela

More transparency in lotto draws urged

TO INCREASE its following and income, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office must conduct transparent lotto draws.

While the PCSO attempts to show that there is no manipulation in the actual drawing of balls, there is no avoiding the suspicion that, after the draws are completed and the winning combinations are known, its management prints extra winning tickets.

Let us say, for instance, that the winning lotto combination for the night is 1-10-20-30-40-45, with only one winning ticket. From the time the draw was completed to the time the winner or winners are announced, the PCSO management could very well print an additional winning ticket, such that the legitimate or real winner would be robbed of 50 percent of his winnings.

I therefore suggest that if the PCSO really wants to have credible draws the following should be done:

1. Before 9 p.m., the PCSO shall turn over control of its computers to certified experts from the private sector and the TV camera shall also focus on these experts. The PCSO shall also announce how many combinations were sold, say 20 million.

2. At 9 p.m., the first lotto ball shall be drawn, and while the PCSO determines how many possible winners remain, a minor draw shall be conducted. The PCSO shall then announce how many megalotto combinations are still in contention, say 3 million.

3. After this the next megalotto ball shall be drawn, then a minor draw conducted, and then the number of the remaining megalotto combinations that can still win shall be announced, say 200,000.

4. This process can be done again and again until we have the winning megalotto combination. And as soon as possible, the PCSO shall announce the number of winning tickets sold and the location of the lotto stations where they were issued. Only then shall the experts relinquish control of the PCSO computers.

If this process, or a similar one, is followed, many doubting Thomases will start buying lotto tickets. I hope the PCSO management sincerely wants transparency in lotto draws.

—RENE TORRES, Makati City, rentorres@yahoo.com

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LETTERS to the Inquirer

Still Baviera's legal counsel

CONRADO R. Banal III wrote in his April 21 column that I disowned my lawyer Frank Chavez.

I have not disowned, and neither am I disowning Chavez as my lawyer. How could I "disown" him when he had stood by me, pro bono, in my difficult and lonely battle against the mighty Standard Chartered Bank which can afford to spend millions of pesos on "PR" just to malign me? Banal was probably referring to one of my defenses (that I could not be indicted for a letter that was sent by my lawyer) in the case of "light threats" filed by SCB. Because the case is now in court, I have been advised by my lawyer to refrain from making any comments relative to that case so as not to telegraph our "punches."

Banal could have readily asked me and verified if what he "heard" from his "reporters-sources" was accurate or not, and I would have gladly given him time and explain my position. But then this is the same Banal who has become so trite in religiously echoing SBC's "praise releases" (Breaktime, PDI, 4/2/05) without even getting the other party's side.

Had Banal been present in the Senate hearing last March 15, he would have heard the loud applause of some of SCB's other victims who were present during the hearing, when Sen. Edgardo Angara ordered the detention of SCB officers and lawyers. I certainly am not alone in this fight against this bank. It just turned out that my case became prominent (thanks to SCB's PR) and that I have on my side a fearless advocate in the person of Chavez.

I wonder how SCB's shareholders will react once they find out that their money is being spent to cover up for the wrongdoings being done by some of its unscrupulous officers in its Philippine branch.

—MANUEL V. BAVIERA, c/o Chavez Miranda Aseoche Law Office, 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

Who speaks for powerless passengers?

SURELY, the INQUIRER is concerned with the transportation fare increases. Considering its heavy toll on the poor, I would like to add some ideas.

According to reports, the drivers are asking that the minimum fare be raised to P8 (from the current P5.50) for every 4 kilometers. This means that if you travel 4 km, the rate is P2 per km. Beyond 4 km, the drivers are asking for an additional P1.25 for every kilometer.

Most of the people who use the public transport system are poor. And most of the people who pay the minimum fare travel less than 4 km per ride. I am sure that, on the average, they travel even less than 2 km per ride. This means, the riding public, at the minimum fare of P8, will be paying, on the average, P4 per km (P8/2 = P4 per km).

Because jeepney drivers work independently, there are no "transfer" arrangements from one ride to the next. If you take two rides at minimum fare, on the average of 2 km per ride, there is no credit from the fare paid for the first ride. You just have to pay P8 for every ride, or a total of P16 for the two rides, even if both covered only 4 km! And you know, so many people have to take at least two rides (if not more) to reach their destination.

True, gas prices have gone up, but gas is not the major cost in transportation (there are the purchase cost, vehicle maintenance cost and, not the least, the salary [income] to be paid to the driver).

Obviously, the fares went up much more than the gas prices. In 1976, the fare was 20 centavos for every 5 km of travel. A minimum fare of P8 for every 4 km will be 50 times higher than the 1976 minimum fare (8/.2 x 5/4 = 50, or 4,900 percent higher).

It is not only now that gas prices are going up. The price hikes started even before 1976 or the oil crisis in 1973. Since then, the drivers have had much time to look for ways to cope with higher gas prices. One way would have been to use lighter engines. Another would have been to use lighter vehicles. These have been done in several areas outside Manila.

In addition, much gas is wasted by public transport vehicles unnecessarily waiting for passengers. For example, if each jeepney driver waits five minutes to pick up passengers, he consumes five minutes worth of gas without income while aggravating pollution; also, the passengers waste their time, and yet the total number of passengers remains the same.

The poor passengers, unlike the jeepney drivers in their powerful situation, cannot go on strike. We can stand up for the weak.

—FR. LUKE R. MOORTGAT, CICM, MoortgatL@dlsu.edu.ph

Unwanted billboards and faces

ON THE BILLBOARD issue, the most annoying billboards were those that carried photographs of local government officials. (e.g., Peewee Trinidad of Pasay; Jessie Castillo of Bacoor, Cavite).

Why do I remember these cities?

Coming from the Cavite area, I consider Castillo's town as the gateway to the country's premier city (Makati). It's like New Jersey approaching New York City. But instead of a well-maintained city, what greeted us was a pile of garbage. I had never seen the road along the Talaba area free of garbage. And I'm not exaggerating.

The sin city of Pasay, of course, looks awful with Trinidad's billboard on overpasses. There were other hilarious billboards, like those carrying the message "Let us make Pasay Clean and Green." Clean and green by painting the overpass with bright orange. Maybe the mayor is trying to compete with the MMDA's pink revolution. I just can't imagine how much money these local officials are spending to have their photos posted on roads.

Let us just hope that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's bills (one seeking to regulate the placement of billboards; and the other, to prohibit officers "from claiming credit through signage announcing a public works project") will be passed. Enough of those officials who come up with billboards proclaiming as if we owe them for something they should be doing.

—ROSS COLLADO, rossc@iwebmasters.com

'Give unto Caesar'

I FIND it surprising that there is strong resistance among church authorities to the plan of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to tax the commercial activities of religious groups. Some church activities (e.g., operating an educational institution or a hospital) are undeniably very profitable. The operators of these businesses should, for public interest and a level playing field, pay the corresponding taxes.

Our Lord Jesus' teachings on the matter are such that we must all pay taxes and give the government what is due. In the book of Romans, Chapter 13:5-7, the apostle Paul exhorts us all to "submit to the authorities"... "to pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants who give their full time to governing." Paul further advises us that "if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."

In Matthew 17:27, our Lord Jesus Himself walked the talk when He commanded the apostle Peter to "go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a fourdrachma coin. Take it and give it to them (temple tax collectors) for my tax and yours."

While I agree that the BIR's performance has been glaringly inefficient, and that government spending and priorities are close to being unconscionable, churches should not use these as excuses to shirk from their duty in sustaining this society. We all must take on our collective responsibility as citizens of this country.

As for big-time tax evaders and other unscrupulous businessmen and professionals, well, the Bible says a lot about them, too.

—DINDY VELASCO, 1747B1 G. Perfecto St., Tondo, Manila

An appeal for higher gov't pay

I HAVE been working for the government for the past eight years, and in all those years, my salary was increased only twice. One was in the amount of an additional P300 per month which was given to me for being in the government for three years (without promotion); the other came with my transfer to another government agency, where I got a position with a higher salary grade.

I agree with Supreme Court Justice Reynato Puno's call (PDI, 4/21/05) for the government to stop paying our debts on the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. If the more than P9 million payment per day would be allotted for projects that would create jobs for more Filipinos, our people won't think of going abroad to work and leave their loved ones. If that amount would be allotted to increase the salary of government workers and to improve government services, the public would have less problems about corrupt officials and "disoriented" government workers. If that amount were saved, this government would no longer think of passing fiscal burdens to the people through the imposition of additional taxes.

I hope the government would heed Justice Puno's call. I hope that our lawmakers would revise the Salary Standardization Law to increase the salaries of government workers by at least 5 percent every year (prices of consumer goods and services, on the average, increase at that rate). This would be a huge help for all of us in the government service.

—JAY-DEE SIO, jdsio@yahoo.com

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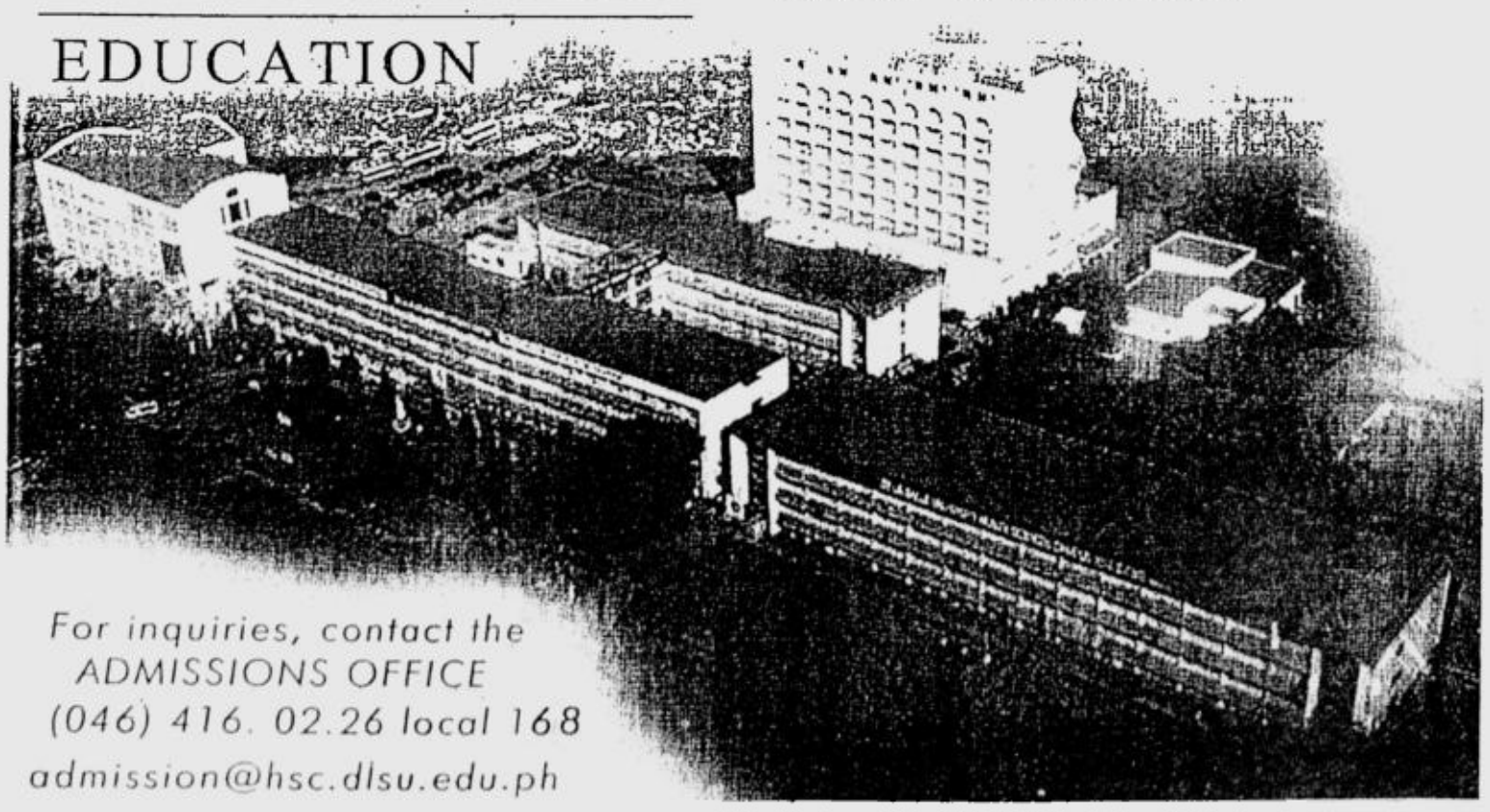

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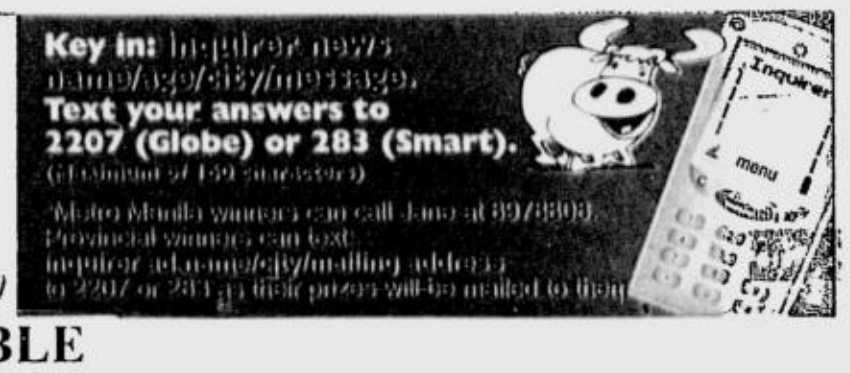

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Faith grows on barren ground

By Raj Padilla
San Lorenzo, Guimaras

WHEN members of the Redemptorist mission first set foot at Barangay Cabano in San Lorenzo, Guimaras, in September last year, it never occurred to them that they would be able to transform lives in so short a time.

But God works in very mysterious ways, their plan proved workable and everything went smooth and easy.

At the heart of San Lorenzo town, 27 km from the Buenavista wharf, is Cabano, the seat of the municipal government. It is the biggest village in San Lorenzo, but, ironically, it is not where the Parish of San Jose, which oversees the entire town, is to be found. The parish is 8 km away, in Barangay Lebas.

Because of its distance from the parish seat, the Redemptorist team did not find it hard to understand why only a handful come to the barangay chapel to hear Sunday Mass. Cabano was probably "the most abandoned" area in the entire island-province in terms of religious activities.

"Before, we could see only around 40 people. Now, there are more or less 300 in the chapel each time we say Mass, thanks to the mission team," noted Fr. Manuel Gonzales, the parish priest. He was one of four priests who joined Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo in a Mass that officially culminated the mission work in Cabano on April 17.

The Archdiocese of Jaro covers the city and province of Iloilo and Guimaras.

According to Gonzales, the mission work has inspired the villagers to grow in faith and be united.

Before it began, Cabano was almost a sleepy barangay of 11 "independent" sitios. Each sitio had its own fiesta and the people seemed unmindful of what had been taking place in the other sitios.

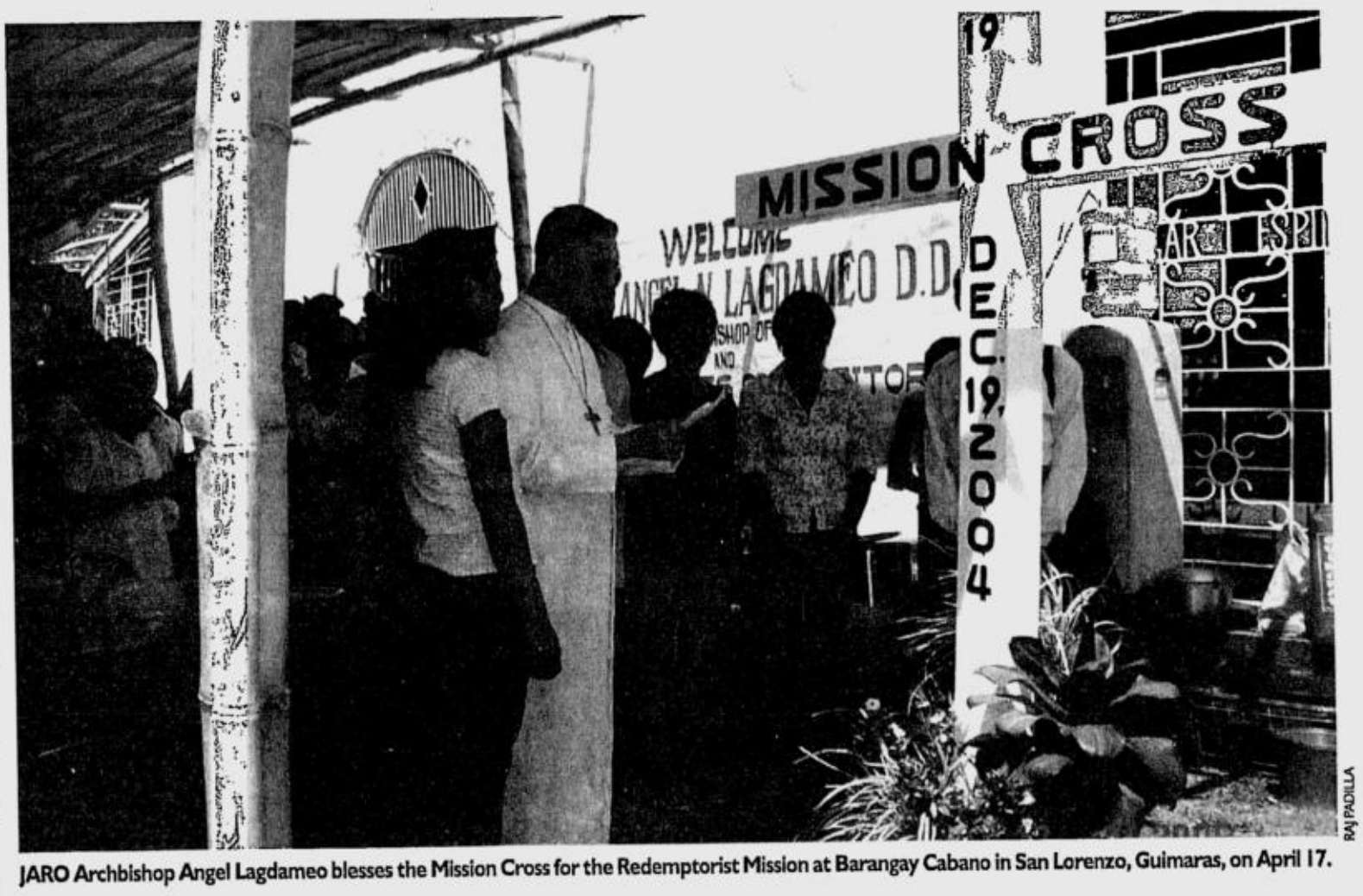
But they were "hungry for the Word of God," Gonzales said.

Early last year, the priest wrote to Lagdameo about the seemingly helpless situation. With the archbishop's approval, a mission team, led by Fr. Eliodoro Reteracion, came to the rescue.

Known to friends as Nono, Reteracion recalled that when they reached Cabano, they found that their task would not simply be a walk in the park. It would need more than immersion into the daily life of the villagers.

"We studied the place and its people and came up with a set of activities which would draw them closer to God and to each other. We were all convinced that the faithful of Cabano should journey toward becoming an empowered Christian

FAITH/ A19



RAJ PADILLA

JARO Archbishop Angel Lagdameo blesses the Mission Cross for the Redemptorist Mission at Barangay Cabano in San Lorenzo, Guimaras, on April 17.

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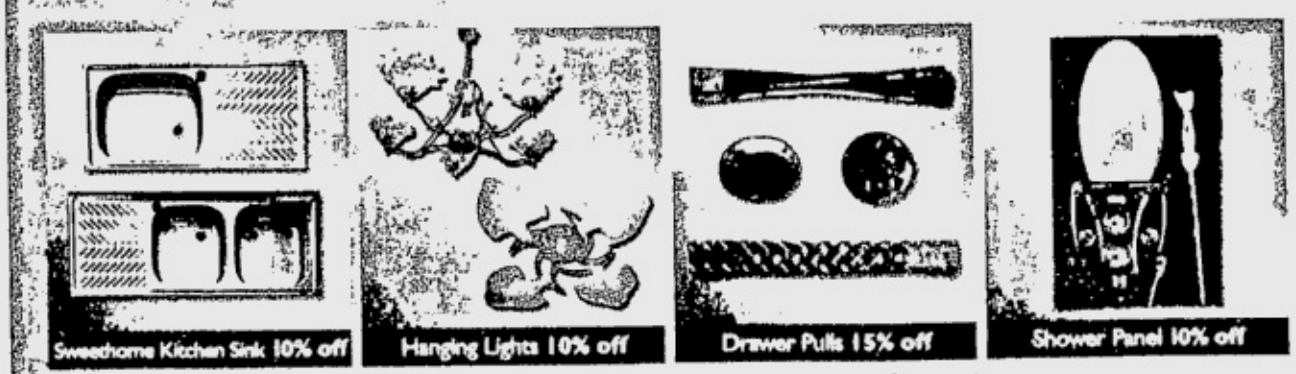

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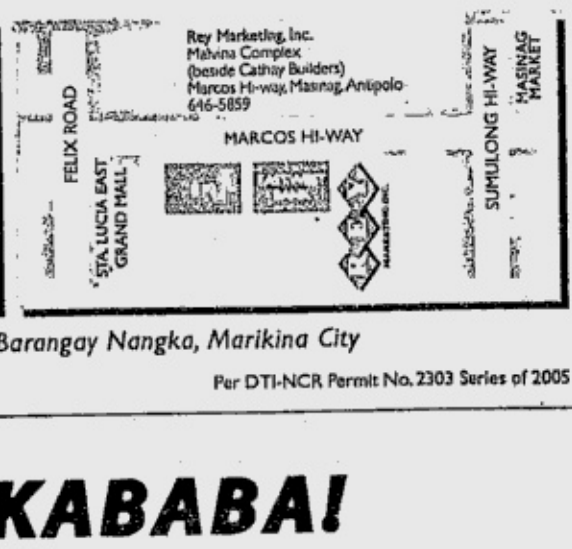

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New vigilante group targets Muslims

DAVAO CITY—A group calling itself Bag-ong Ilaga warned Muslims against joining or supporting terror groups, saying it was starting an "active defense."

The group, obviously patterned after the Ilaga vigilante group formed in the 1970s, was officially launched on Tuesday through a media campaign. It was allegedly composed of victims of terror, according to statement sent out to various media outlets.

The group's leader was identified as a Commander Dapay.

The group said Muslims identified with terror organizations would be the target of its campaign.

Aside from terrorists, Dapay said they would also run after criminals.

Military and police authorities said they were still verifying if Bag-ong Ilaga, which literally means new rat, really exists.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of Task Force Davao, said that they were, however, ready to arrest members of the group, which he said was illegal.

Del Rosario said no group besides the police and the military, including its sub-units, have been authorized to run after terrorists especially when they use firearms to do so.

"We will not sanction activities like these," he said.

Del Rosario urged the group to instead act as an intelligence arm of the military.

"Terrorism is everybody's concern but running after terrorists is our job," he said.

Lumayag Catao, president of the United Muslims and Christians for Peace and Development (UMCPD), said the revival of the vigilante group could sow more trouble in the city and other parts of Mindanao.

At the height of the Moro rebellion, Ilaga gunmen massacred tens of thousands of Muslim civilians, including children. They were also accused of raping women.

When the late strongman Marcos started the peace process with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), most Ilaga members joined the now defunct Barangay Self-Defense Unit (BSDU), which later became the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF).

Even with their integration to the BSDU and later the CHDF, many Ilaga leaders and members continue murdering Muslims and later Christians suspected of being communists.

Among the most notorious Ilaga leaders were Norberto Manero and his brothers.

They shot and killed Italian priest Tulio Favali in 1985 on suspicion he was a communist sympathizer.

Aleem Jiamal Munib, executive director of the Madrasa Comprehensive Development, said there was no need for civilians to take up arms and run after terror suspects because the military and the police were already doing their jobs. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Man files attempted slay raps vs Pampanga governor for beating

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid was charged with attempted murder by a 30-year-old man who was allegedly beaten up by the governor, his security aides and friends on Sunday in a club in Angeles City, 18 km south of here.

Lapid, eldest son of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, in turn, filed a case for direct assault against Gideon Cura of Mexico town.

The Angeles City prosecutor's office received both cases on April 26. These were filed three hours apart, first by Lapid. The alleged beating incident happened at 2 a.m. at the Club Halfway just outside of the Clark Special Economic Zone.

In his affidavit, Lapid claimed that he was returning to his seat from the club's toilet when Cura bumped him on the shoulder and punched him in the back. But Cura has a different account of what happened. In his affidavit, he said he and his cousin Allan Vital, his witness, were on their way out of the club when Lapid and his group arrived.

Another version

That's when he and the governor bumped shoulders, he said.

"Kilalalan mu reng babanggan mu (You should know whom you're bumping into)!" he quoted Lapid as telling him.

When he recognized it was the governor, Cura said he apologized. It was Lapid, he added, who punched him in the chin.

"One of his companions hit me (on the head) with a bottle and another hit me with a steel chair," Cura said.

"Mark Lapid, together with his seven companions, in conspiracy with each other and with obvious intent to kill, continued to maul and beat me," he said.

He said he rushed out of the club to save his life. "...I was drenched with my own blood..." he added.

No reference

Lapid, in his affidavit, made no reference to the beating.

He said his aide, Cyril Discartin, "pushed the man who punched me to prevent him from further inflicting blows on me."

Hinting he took no part in beating Cura, he said his two other security aides closed in on him and "rushed me outside to where our vehicle was parked."

Cura described as "criminal" the act of Lapid and his seven companions because this was "aggravated by abuse of superior strength and treachery."

He did not identify who the seven men were. Lapid said he only had three security personnel when he went into the club.

But two witnesses said what they saw "looked like a free-for-all" against Cura. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bell focus of Capiz town fiesta

By Felipe Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Once again, Asia's biggest bell will peal louder than usual to herald the town fiesta of Panay, Capiz on May 1 to 4.

Panay Mayor Felipe Barredo said special Masses would be offered at the Sta. Monica Parish Church, named after the town's patroness, which would usher in the celebration.

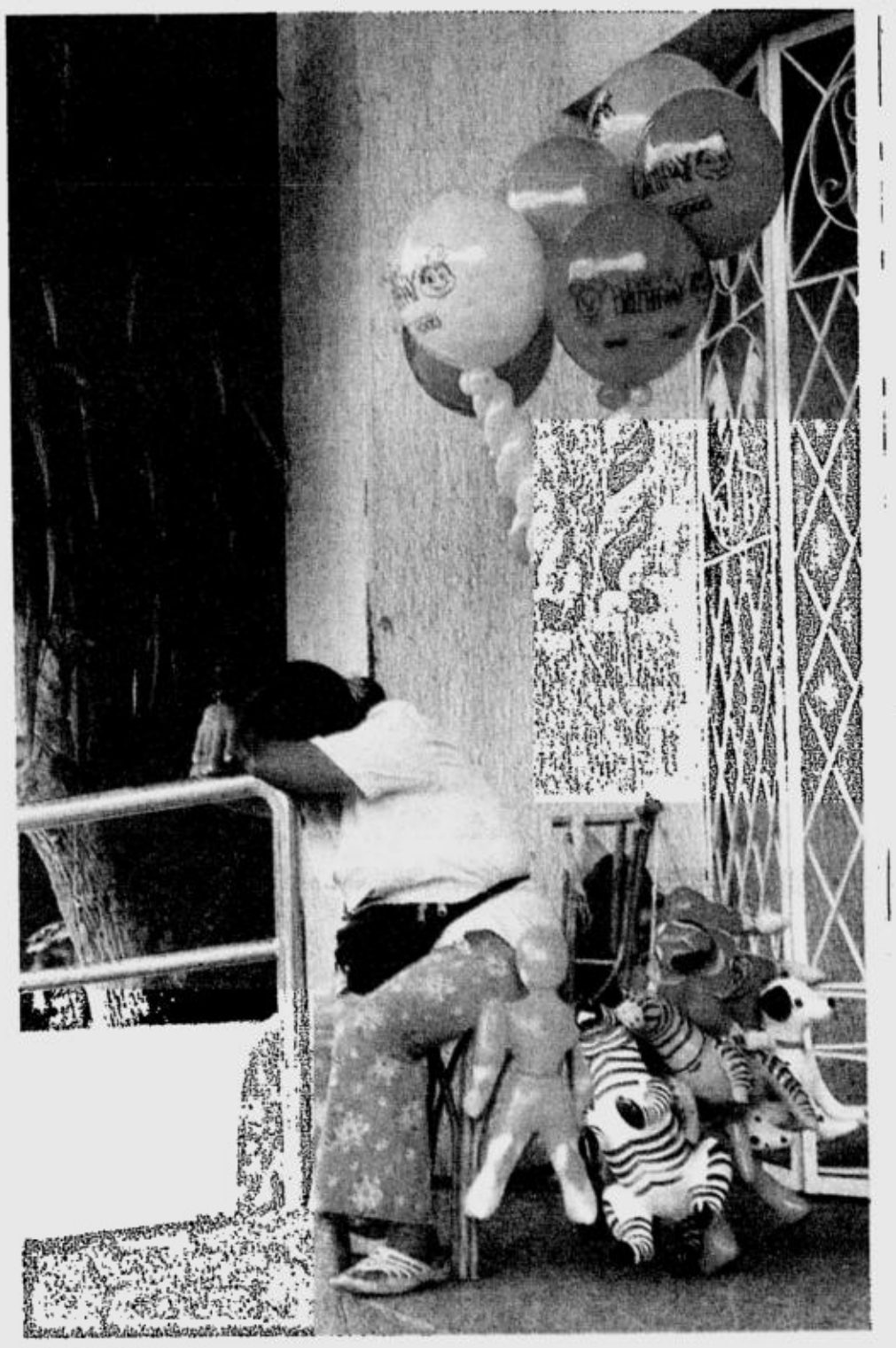
The Sta. Monica Parish Church, which was completed in 1771, houses the biggest Catholic Church bell in Asia that was cast from 70 sacks of coins donated by the townsfolk.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) has recognized the bell as one of the country's religious and historical tourist attractions.

The activities lined up in the town fiesta include mural and canvass painting contest and ihaw-ihaw festival on May 1 that would be held every night until May 4.

On May 2, there would be a community Mass, flag-raising, product expo, medical and dental services and blood letting, a cultural show, and barangay night.

A community Mass would again usher in the activities on the third day of the celebration.



REST CORNER
A woman vending balloons find rest in the San Pedro Cathedral from a tiring, but slow day for her trade. BING GONZALES

Lipa City cathedral celebrates 400th year

THE PARISH of San Sebastian in Lipa City will celebrate its 400th anniversary today with the theme: "Matatag na Pananampalataya, Matatatag na Parokya."

The celebration today will be a grand celebration. A parade around the poblacion will start at 8 a.m. Mass would be said at 10 a.m. to be officiated by the Most Rev. Ramon Arguelles, Lipa archbishop. Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal will deliver the homily.

A procession will start at 6 p.m. after a 5 p.m. Mass.

Guests and visitors are encouraged to wear *baro't saya, barong tagalog, camisa chino* or other native attire and ride in *kalesa, karitela* or *caromata* going to the cathedral.

Only these kinds of vehicles will be allowed entry near the cathedral.

Native delicacies and souvenir items will also be on sale.

Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, former parish priest, planned to leave two legacies in the cathedral—a carillon and the conversion of the old choir loft to a museum to draw tourists and visitors.

Punongbayan finds rest in bosom of mountains that he studied well

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Like Mt. Pinatubo, the volcano that he said brought out the best and bad in him, Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan is at rest now.

Like how his favorite volcano behaved, death came in a violent way, through a helicopter crash on Mt. Namal in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, on Thursday morning.

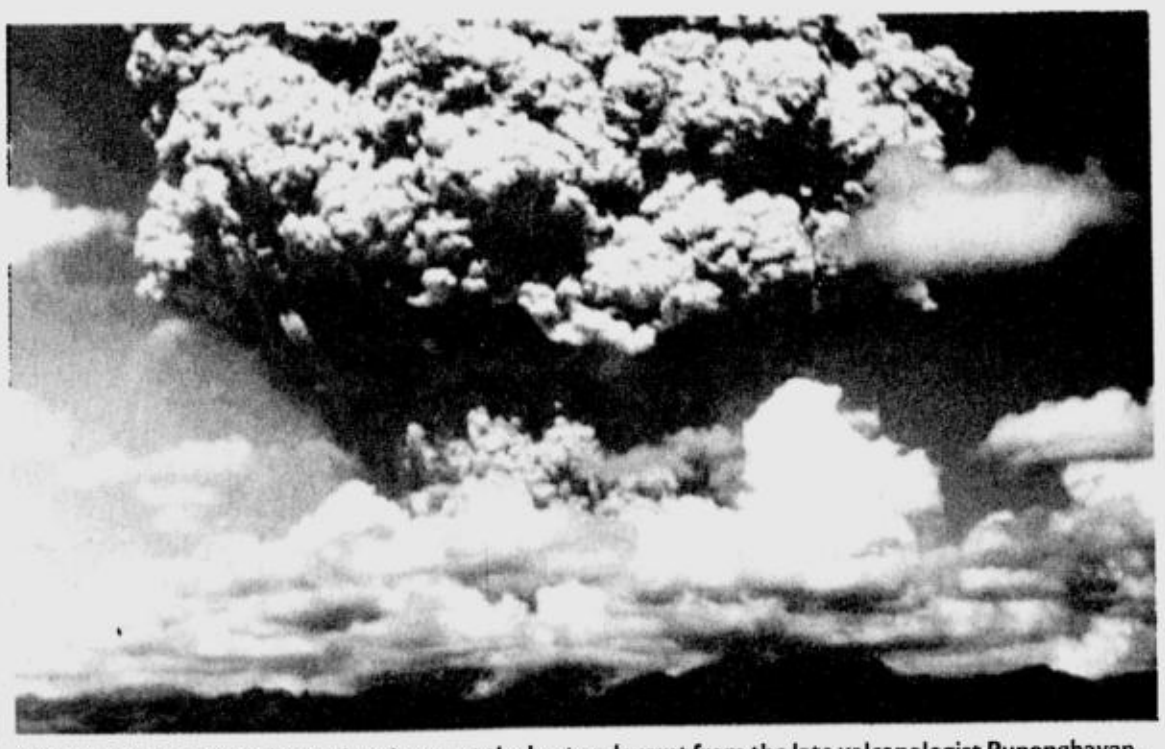
To his last, Punongbayan, the former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, was in the bosom of the mountain, this time in the landslides-stricken parts of the Sierra Madre.

He was scheduled to assess geological hazards in Barangay Paltic in Dingalan, Aurora when the accident occurred.

Punongbayan—Ray to his friends and enemies, RSP to his colleagues and students—was best remembered as the scientist who helped lead Central Luzon out of the disaster that Mt. Pinatubo's cataclysmic eruptions wrought in June 1991.

During the 10th year of the disaster in 2001, the Aetas of Zambales and Religious of the Virgin Mary nuns credited Punongbayan for listening to and trusting people.

Then the director of the poorly funded and understaffed Phivolcs, Punongbayan sent a team to Zambales to confirm reports of steams and frequent earthquakes on the western flanks of Mt. Pinatubo two months before the eruptions.



MT. PINATUBO, the volcano that drew out the best and worst from the late volcanologist Punongbayan. PDI PHOTO

The next days gave portents of worst things to come.

As he described it, Pinatubo was like a pregnant woman—only that it took nine weeks, not nine months, for it to give out its worst blasts after more than 600 years.

In casual conversations several years after, Punongbayan said the major challenge that he faced was how to make people believe that a volcano was in its eruptive stage.

There was disbelief because nobody ever knew, not even the elders among the Aetas, that Pinatubo was a volcano. Nobody, too, has an experience with eruptions. To the tribe, it was a mountain where a powerful deity, Apo Namalyari, lives. Punongbayan advised evacuation in phases.

As the magma built up and rose to the crater, he relieved his tension by smoking, and smoking a lot.

In stages, the Phivolcs expanded the danger zone from 10 to 40 km. Outside that huge zone was a huge population of four million people in Pampanga on the east, Tarlac on the north and Zambales on west. They had no idea they lived under the shadow of an angry volcano.

The large population at risk made the task even more daunting, he said.

As he dished out advisory after advisory, he said he left it to the National Disaster Coordinating Center to bring the information to the local governments and the communities.

What irked him then, he said, was the slow relay of information to the villages.

Patience was not his best trait and thought it was wise that the work was left to Jean Tayag, his information and education chief at Phivolcs.

Punongbayan knew the power of media in information sharing. Problem was some reporters did not understand the language of volcanology, much less spell out correctly his agency's name.

From the start, he said he realized the need to speak in layman's terms. He simplified these also for reporters. He still encountered the problems of misreporting or inaccurate reporting.

Explaining *lahar* to officials and reporters was another task he did. Teasing the Kapampangans who often miss on their "h," he pronounced lahar as *"la-ar."*

With the big role he played in the disaster management, Punongbayan became a sort of soothsayer and at the same time a calming, reassuring figure.

Punongbayan was not only a scientist, he, too, was a technocrat.

As the disaster drew out the best in Phivolcs, it also revealed how poorly equipped it was. It was during Punongbayan's stint, until he retired in 2003, that the agency got grants for new seismic stations, a new building, and more research and study grants.

He always lamented how funds were lacking for his agency that monitored 30 volcanoes and earthquakes in the country.

The "Man of the Year" award that the INQUIRER bestowed on him elated him, he said. That was because he said he "only did what I needed to do."

Standing at 5 foot 2 inches and simple in bearing, Punongbayan looked ordinary like any barrio folk. He could be lost in the crowd but he got so popular that in forums, his audience clapped wild to recognize him.

Retiring at 65, he wasn't just one who faded out the background. He took in consultancy jobs for local governments that were conscious of potential threats in their midst.

Before the landslides occurred in eastern Luzon in November and December 2004, Punongbayan was doing research in the area on his own funds.

And so while everybody blamed illegal logging for the many deaths, he gave a loud dissenting opinion, saying what occurred in the area were flashfloods.

Water from strong rains dammed at the summit and gushed to wash out everything in its path, he said. He gave this assessment after flying over Quezon and Aurora provinces that December.

This correspondent met Punongbayan hours after that flight. In between puffs of cigarette, he said: "The mountain's scarred."

The flight, he added, tired him. "I like flying over mountains, seeing the trees down. The mountain's scarred like Pinatubo was then. Go rush with your story. Flashfloods are what communities should learn to watch out for," he said.

Faith grows on barren ground

From page A17

community," said Reteracion, the mission coordinator of the St. Clement's Parish in La Paz District in Iloilo City.

The team—composed by Reteracion, Sisters Anna and Vicky, and three lay workers—visited every Catholic household in all 11 sitios. Those they could not reach, they dealt with in clusters and on common ground.

"We reminded them of the importance of hearing Mass regularly and taught them how to use the Bible, say the novena, and all which has something to do with their family life. After three months of hard work, we achieved the results we exactly aimed and worked for," a beaming Reteracion said.

By the time the mission ended, the number of churchgoers dramatically rose. About 80 people offered their services as lay volunteers.

Reteracion said the number was more than enough to continue the Gospel life in the barangay.

A total of 21 groups for novena prayer, catechism and Bible-sharing have been formed, including a youth choir for the Sunday Mass.

Seeing the mission succeed in Cabano and with the lay volunteers still in high spirits, Reteracion's group spread out to nearby Barangay Sebaryo. Similar results were achieved in just three months since January.

Gonzales said there was still much work to do. The end of mission work in Cabano and Sebaryo actually meant a new beginning, he said. Like Lagdameo, he urged his parishioners to nurture the seed that was planted.

For their first project, Gonzales and the parishioners wrote to Oscar Lopez, chair of the Manila-based Benpres Holdings Corp., asking him if he can donate a 1,500-square-meter property beside the barangay chapel to the parish.

The letter, dated April 11, 2005, said "the people of Cabano are responding to the challenge of becoming a community of disciples ... that there is a need to provide this growing Church—the people of God—a place where they could worship together as a community."

The parish plans to relocate its seat to Cabano so that it will also be in the town center, Gonzales said. "Although I don't expect this to happen in my time, I am confident that those who will come after me will pursue the objective," he said.

Gonzales said a convent and a meeting hall would also be built on the property.

When they arrived in the early 1900s, the Redemptorist Fathers first settled in Cebu, but it was in Iloilo City where they introduced what is now nationally known as the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The St. Clement's Parish in La Paz is the Redemptorist base in Panay and Guimaras.

Fr. Patrick Sugrue, one of the pillars of the parish, said conducting mission work in far-flung areas had always been a top priority. While he was assigned in Negros several years ago, Sugrue said they did mission work in many parts of the island, building basic ecclesial communities.

Lagdameo said he would continue to ask for the help of priests from the religious sector, like the Redemptorists, in spreading the Good News to the countryside.

"I recognize the importance and necessity of the mission because we lack priests in the remote areas. Theirs is a very, very big help especially in the building of basic ecclesial communities," he said.

San Lorenzo Mayor Arsenio Zambarrano, who attended the mission's culminating activity, was pleased by the turn of events. "I'm positive that this will redound to the benefit of my town because as my people grow in faith, they also are transformed into better individuals," he said.

The last time a mission work was conducted in Cabano was in the '70s when Jaime Cardinal Sin was archbishop of Jaro, he said. "Our people shall never forget this day when the archbishop joined them and when they all gathered in a prayer of thanksgiving."

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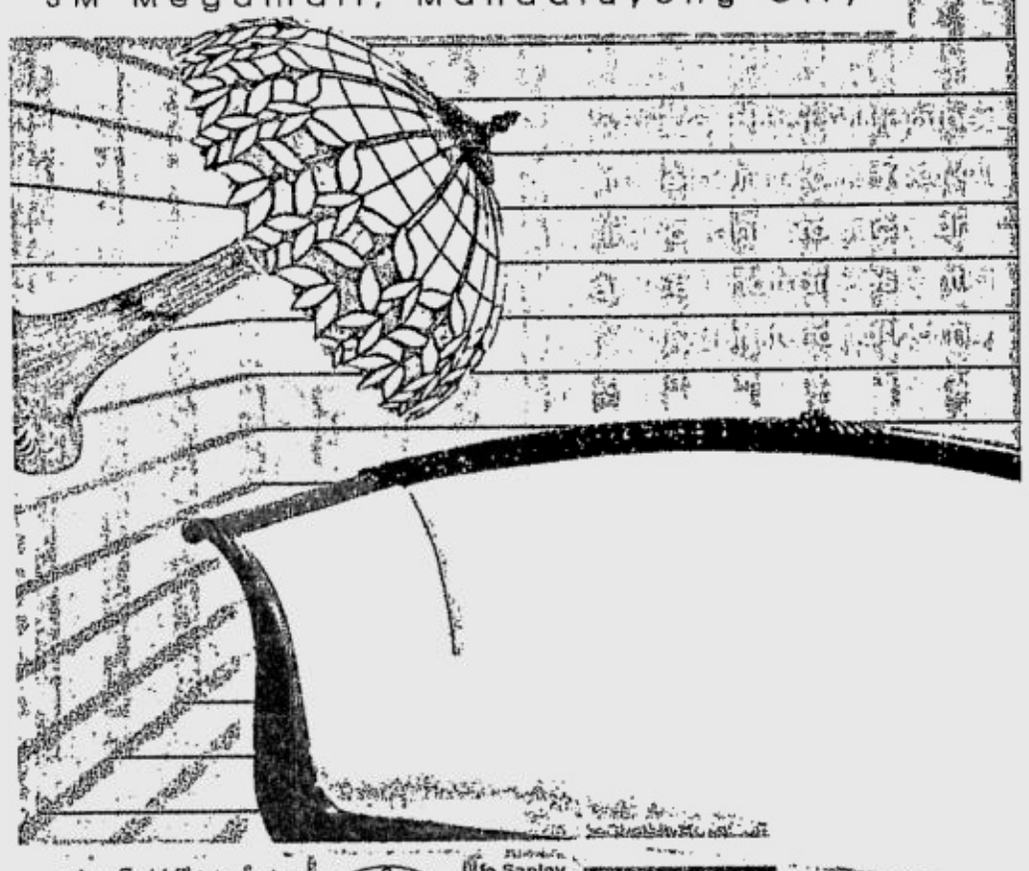

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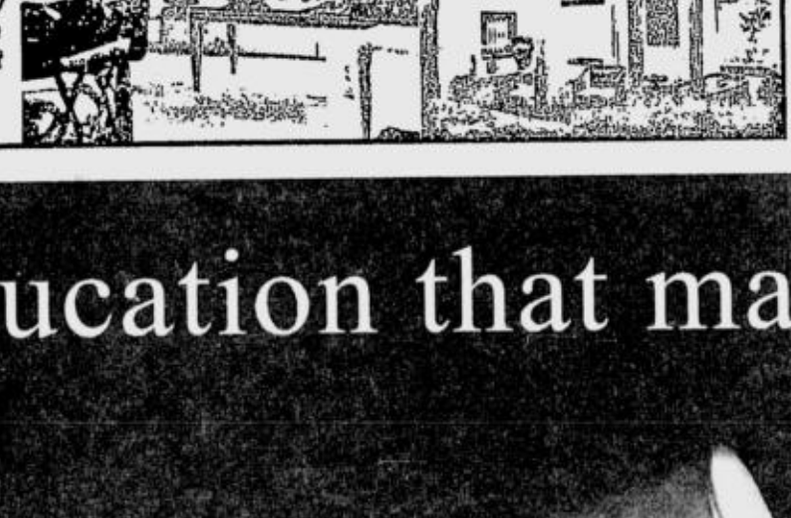

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PHIVOLCS Director Rene Solidum meets with the families of the crash victims at the Red Cross headquarters in Intramuros, including daughters of his predecessor, Lulu and Andalus Punongbayan (extreme left and 2nd left), to discuss funeral arrangements. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

It was his 1st and last chopper ride

By Leila B. Salaverria and Nikko Dizon

THE TRIP to Nueva Ecija on Thursday was the first for science researcher Orlando Abengoza, and it turned out to be his last.

The 49-year-old had shunned helicopter rides, fearing the gusts of wind that could rock the aircraft. But he was strangely happy on the night before he left for Dingalan, Aurora, with colleagues from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, his wife Susan recounted.

She said her husband, Allan to family and friends, had probably looked forward to the trip because he would be with his close friends, Dindo Javier, Jessie Daligdig and Norman Tuñgol.

Abengoza was in charge of mapping active faults, conducting emergency investigations of disasters and tracking the Pinatubo lahar flow.

Susan described him as a caring man who loved looking after their four children, the eldest of whom was 18 and the youngest, only a year old.

"He always cooked for them, he loved to cook. Tomorrow would be Saturday, and he was supposed to go to the market..." she said, her voice trailing off before she burst into tears.

Famous

Phivolcs artist and audiovisual editor Dindo Javier, 41, enjoyed the limelight, according to his 20-year-old daughter Kristine.

"My mother said my father always wanted to be famous, and now he has become famous," she said.

But the tragedy is not the way that the family would have wanted him to become well-known.

Kristine recalled that her father always bragged to them about being seen on TV whenever there were disasters like the Pinatubo eruption, and about working with prominent personalities.

"He would tell us, 'Have you worked with famous people? I have,'" she said.

At Phivolcs, Javier took video footage of incidents like volcanic eruptions and lahar flow, and was in charge of producing posters and infomercials about earthquakes and tsunamis.

He also designed the first tsunami marker in Baler, Aurora, that was inaugurated last January.

Living apart

Javier, who was to turn 42 on May 17, also used his skills to help his three children with their projects.

Kristine, a mass communication student at Adamson University, said her father usually accompanied her on video shoots and even edited her work.

"He was easy to ask for help. Sometimes he would even work for only half a day to help me," she said.

The Javiers live apart because of school and work.

Dindo lives in Bulacan with son Carlo, 17. The eldest child, Fatima, 22, helps manage her aunt's drug store in Mindoro. Their mother, Emerlita, manages a cross-stitch shop in Puerto Galera.

The last time the whole family was together was on April 9-12 in Baguio, where they attended the wedding of a cousin.

Young widow

Marinella Tacata, 28, is too young to be a widow.

The tragedy ended her 12-year romance with her husband, Sgt. Whilbert Tacata.

"We have been together since we were 16 years old. We have been married for four years," Marinella told the INQUIRER at the Philippine Air Force mortuary in Villamor Air Base, where Tacata's body lies.

He would have turned 28 in June.

Marinella admitted that she had somehow resented her husband's job because it took him away from her most of the time.

"But I knew that he loved being with the Air Force. He was happy with what he was doing because he was very adventurous," she said.

Open casket

Before Tacata left for Villamor on Thursday morning, Marinella recalled grumbling to him that he was leaving her again.

"He said something like, You'll get used to it," she said.

But she is grateful that at least her husband's body is intact and she can still look at his face.

He was the only one among the nine with an open casket for viewing.

Marinella said she had not thought of what she would do after her husband—who had filled her with love for half of her life—is buried.

"It was too early for him to go. Now I wish we had even just one child," she said.

Only 2 crash victims identified

From page A1

ready. We could not even hold them in our hands)," Belmonte said.

Airman 2nd Class Jonathan Dreo said he and the others found the bodies of Gerodias and Tacata some seven meters from the burning chopper.

This was the reason why, among the six bodies flown back to Manila, only those of Gerodias and Tacata could be immediately identified.

Padilla said that the bodies of co-pilot 1st Lt. Jason Salazar and crew Staff Sgt. Edgardo Ramolete were definitely among those that had been recovered, based on the traces of military uniform on two burned bodies.

However, Padilla said, medico-legal experts were still examining the bodies to determine which was Salazar's and which Ramolete's.

"There was nothing left from torso down, aside from the fact that both bodies were badly burned," Padilla said. "We only knew the two bodies were those of Air Force men because one had his uniform stuck to his body while the other was wearing an [Air Force] glove."

Padilla said that the PAF would leave the identification of the two other recovered bodies up to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

As of press time, Padilla said he had yet to receive feedback from rescuers at the scene if the unaccounted for remains of the three victims had been found.

"We will make sure that we get them," he said.

Nueva Ecija police yesterday combed Mt. Namat in Gabaldon town but found no remains of the other victims.

"We searched the crash site and the areas near it but we found no more bodies or body parts," Insp. Pablo Cruz, Gabaldon police chief, told the INQUIRER.

Cruz and village officials arrived at the site in Barangay Ligaya four hours after the crash was reported.

Cruz said farmers who were working near where the helicopter went down saw the chopper hit a tree and a boulder before it exploded.

He said the farmers even tried to go near the burning helicopter to help any survivors.

One of the farmers, Herman Tablang, said he stopped going near the flaming chopper after he heard sounds of exploding bullets.

With a report from Tina Santos

GMA pays tribute

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo paid tribute to former Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology chief Raymundo Punongbayan as an "eminent scientist who lived in the social realm."

Ms Arroyo said: "We extol his great contributions not only to our knowledge about disasters, but to the ways in which communities could work together to mitigate them."

She added: "His last mission was symbolic of the deep concern he had for the victims of calamities and he will always be remembered for this deep sense of compassion and civic duty."

Phivolcs deputy director Bart Bautista said Punongbayan, a governor of the Philippine National Red Cross at the time he died in Thursday's helicopter crash, was the country's top geo-scientist, being an expert in earth science, including volcanology, seismology and geology.

Asked about the monetary benefits due the families of the crash victims, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the families of the two Air Force pilots and two non-commissioned officers would be provided with burial assistance and given P100,000.

He said he talked to Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the PNRC, and that they, together with Phivolcs, would try to raise more money for the families of the victims.

Punongbayan and his team had flown to the area where they crashed for an aerial assessment of landslide threats.

Hueys grounded

From page A1

Only when there are missions for national security—such as during a coup d'etat—would these Hueys be allowed to fly, Air Force officials said.

"After this [grounding] order, the Huey choppers would stay as the main work horse of the Philippine Air Force," Cruz said. "This is a venerable helicopter that was introduced during the Vietnam War and a lot of militaries use this still around the world."

'Reliable and durable'

The Huey is used to ferry troops and supplies and evacuate casualties in battle areas. It is also used for disaster relief and other mercy missions.

Cruz insisted the Huey chopper was a "very reliable and durable helicopter."

Told that the Hueys were viewed by some as "flying coffins" considering the number of accidents involving them, Cruz stressed these choppers had been newly refurbished even if they were not brand-new acquisitions.

"[This is] a safe aircraft and ... we will make sure that we would focus attention in maintaining them not only for readiness but for the safety aspect," he said.

Chopper shattered

Cruz said the grounding of the nearly 50 UH-1H in the Air Force fleet would not affect military operations.

"We still have Mg520, Sikorsky, and other fixed aircraft," he said.

The investigation could take some time because the helicopter was badly burned and had shattered into pieces, Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said.

The engine however is intact, a good starting point for investigators, he said.

Padilla said the investigators would assess not only the capabilities of the two pilots but also those of the maintenance staff, who handled the helicopter.

He said the pilot, 1st Lt. Reynaldo Gerodias, and co-pilot 1st Lt. Jason Salazar were trained and experienced, each having logged nearly 500 hours flying time.

Acquired from US

The crashed Huey was among the eight choppers which the PAF received second-hand from the United States in January 2002 under its Excess Defense Article Program.

Thursday's crash was the first fatal accident that the Air Force's fleet of Hueys had encountered in nearly three years, Padilla said.

"We have had accidents during trainings but none have been fatal," he said.

The crashed Huey was damaged in August 2003 after landing hard during a training sortie but put back to commission in May 2004 after a thorough structural repair, Padilla said.

"When we received this aircraft, it was relatively young according to our maintenance people," he said.

Danger sign

At the time, it had recorded 5,200 flight hours. The others had more than 10,000 flight hours, Padilla said.

Only 35 to 40 choppers of the Hueys in the PAF fleet are operational, Padilla said.

The investigating team, led by Col. Eusaquito Manalo, director of the Air Force Safety Office, left for Mt. Namat at noon.

The team was supposed to have left earlier but returned to Villamor Air Base minutes after takeoff when the pilot of the Huey II rescue helicopter—an upgraded model—noticed that its warning light was blinking.

The chopper was allowed to leave after thorough inspection and testing.

"We were just being extra careful especially after what had happened," Maj. Augusto de la Peña of the PAF information office said.

Padilla said it would be too "premature to make a judgment" on what caused the crash.

"There are many factors that come into play," he said.

The helicopter is operated by the 207th Tactical Helicopter Squadron of the 205th Helicopter Wing based at Villamor.

Senators' views

Senators said the crash was a grim reminder to the government to prioritize the maintenance of its air assets.

"We sacrificed the life of a dedicated public servant unnecessarily through the use of antiquated helicopters which are obviously flying coffins handed down to us as excess inventory of American aircraft," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, shared Pimentel's view, saying: "The Armed Forces should ensure that the maintenance of its old equipment is assured."

He said the government lacked the funds to bankroll the military's modernization program, estimated at P331 billion in 1995.

So far, the government has managed to raise only P10.4 billion for the program, which could cost the government some P700 billion now since the peso has depreciated, Biazon said. *TJ Burgonio*

Life over for Phivolcs chief geologist before turning 40

From page A1

for his safety.

One of few experts

But Tuñgol, who worked at Phivolcs for 14 years, celebrated every day in his job.

He is recognized by the agency as one of very few experts in geological hazards, paleoseismology, neotectonics, volcanology, hydrology, remote sensing and airphoto geology, geographic information system and near-surface geophysics.

A fourth placer in the geology licensure exam in 1987, he worked for Benguet Mining Corp. after graduation.

Tuñgol joined Phivolcs in 1991 as a science research specialist and immediately took part in the monitoring, mapping and assessment of lahar from Mt. Pinatubo.

He was also part of the mapping and trenching team of the Marikina Valley Fault System, which gave experts the ability to make an estimate of the recurrence interval of large earthquakes.

He was so bent on improving disaster management in the Philippines that he refused to take advantage of an opportunity to live in New Zealand after completing his doctorate degree through a scholarship.

Payback

It was payback for the country that supported Tuñgol's college education at the University of the Philippines, an ideal he carried from his activist days, Malou said.

They had met at UP, where they became campus sweethearts.

"A lot of people who went to New Zealand would renege on their contract to serve their country after completing their studies. But right from the start, Norman decided that we would return here. He wanted to apply everything he learned in the Philippines," she said.

Tuñgol flew to New Zealand in 1997; his family followed him a year later. He completed his doctorate in engineering geology with distinction at the University of Canterbury in 2002.

"It was a dilemma for me as a mother because I had seen a better option for our kids. But Norman was bent on fulfilling his job. He was happy doing what he did despite the pay in government," Malou said.

'He loved his job'

Of Ruben and Norma's five children, Tuñgol was the only one who followed in his father's footsteps and worked for the government.

Ruben was a government worker himself, retired now after having served as regional director of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

The father described a part of his son's job as assessing the safety of areas ravaged by calamity.

"He loved his job," Ruben said.

That Thursday, Norma felt no premonition about her son's death: "No broken glass, no tightening of the chest."

She said she had been badgering Tuñgol about when he would come to their home in Floridablanca. He had even joked that they should prepare a roasted calf for him.

Norma said they were now waiting for the results of the DNA test so they could have a proper funeral for Tuñgol.

She harbors no more hope that her son is alive, but has not yet accepted his death.

"I asked the Lord, why couldn't it have been me? He's young, with four children. Why him?" the mother said.

Remote hope

"I was hoping for him to come home," Malou quietly told neighbors Thursday night in UP Village, Quezon City.

"He has been giving me signs that he is alive and just around," she said, voicing a hope no matter how remote.

The Tuñgols' co-graduates and friends from Kaaguman UP, an organization of UP students from Pampanga, sat in silent vigil in the yard until the wee hours, still a bit hopeful.

They said they had heard a report that three passengers were able to jump off the helicopter before it crashed.

But if there were survivors, where could they be?

A neighbor, who is a Protestant pastor, told Malou it would be helpful to prepare for the truth, no matter how tragic and sad.

"Malakas ako. I can be strong to accept the truth," Malou told him. Then she wept silently.

Malou said all her daughters already knew what had happened, but that the youngest seemed not to understand what it all meant.

"My daughters were brought up to be loving and independent. They are very good students," Malou said proudly, hugging her children.

And the three elder ones stood by their mother, unsmiling and cool with unshed tears. *With a report from Minerva Generalao*

Rosebud's ₱5.8M came from jueteng–PNP execs

From page A1

"I collected money from the PNP fund. That is far from being jueteng money," she said in a phone interview.

Ong said the allegations that she was paid from jueteng bribe money would have to be proven first.

She said she was aware of attempts to link members of the First Family, particularly the President's husband, to the jueteng bribe money controversy.

But she said the money that was paid to her came not from Mike Arroyo but from the PNP.

"Don't forget that I am the first one who bravely unmasked the face of FG [Mike Arroyo]. My collection was between me and the PNP, and it was FG who tried to block the release (of the money)," she said, adding that she supported efforts to stop the illegal numbers game.

Ong herself reported that P5.8 million in cash was delivered to her in the Camp Aguinaldo safe house where she was staying two weeks after she publicly accused Arroyo of blocking the payment of her agent's fees for two drug operations in 1998 and 1999.

Ong said she had been paid P5.8 million to cover her agent's fees, and another P1.8 million in interest accrued since 1998.

The payment effectively stopped Ong's media attacks on Arroyo.

At the time, Ong said she presumed the funds paid to her came from the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), which was once headed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Ong, a former anti-narcotics agent of the government, turned state witness against Lacson, a former PNP chief, accusing him of money laundering and kidnapping for ransom.

Lapid needs more time

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid meanwhile has asked for more time to decide whether he should inhibit himself from chairing or participating in the Senate inquiry into the latest jueteng controversy.

"He will decide next week," said Lapid's spokesperson and chief of staff Benalfre Galang.

The senator was asking for more time so he would "know what to do," Galang said.

His chief security aide said the senator was not available for an interview.

'Vatican of jueteng'

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the other day that Lapid, being a native of Pampanga, the center of jueteng operations, should recuse himself from the inquiry for his own good.

Lapid chairs the Senate committee on games and amusement that is conducting the inquiry.

Pimentel said that Pampanga, where Lapid was vice governor from 1992 to 1995 and governor from 1995 to 2004, was the "Vatican of jueteng." His son, Mark Lapid, is now the province's governor.

Pampanga, particularly the town of Lubao, is where suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda lives. Pineda was displaced when his alleged patron, jailed ex-President Estrada, was ousted in the aftermath of the "juetengate" scandal of 2000. Estrada, who is now on trial for plunder, was accused of accepting bribes from jueteng operators.

Of the 1,419 police raids against jueteng operations made in 2001 in Central Luzon, Pampanga reported the highest number at 488.

In 2002 and 2003, it placed second after Bulacan in terms of the most number of raids and number of people arrested.

Watch list

As of 2003, the police watch list of alleged jueteng operators and financiers in the region included Melchor Caluag, Regalado Balboa, Paris Tolentino in Pampanga; Bong and Ruben Pineda in Pampanga and Bataan; Crisologo Ballesteros, Bebot Roxas, Mark Halili and Jimmy Laxamana in Tarlac; Tony Santos in Meycauayan, Bulacan; Abet, Nonie and Jessie all surnamed Viceo in Bulacan; Lito Somera in Sta. Maria, San Jose del Monte and Bulacan towns in Bulacan; Onofre Valenzuela in Obando, Bulacan.

A certain Munti allegedly operated the illegal game in Nueva Ecija; a certain Aging in Olongapo; Peping Quiambao, Zambales; Larry Untayao in Bataan, Pampanga and Angeles City; and a certain Monette, also in Angeles City. Nine of the names on the police watch list were arrested in 2001. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Jueteng 'whistle blower' has no credibility–Ping

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE ANONYMOUS "whistle blower" of the alleged highly connected recipients of jueteng bribe money has zero credibility, said opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson said the source, a police officer in active service, was "fond of concocting tales."

"But there's always a first time to be credible. This might be the first time he is telling the truth. Let's find out," Lacson said in an ANC interview.

"But as far as I'm concerned, the way I know this police officer concerned, when it comes to credibility he flunks it," Lacson said.

According to Lacson, the would-be whistle blower may have been cut out of the jueteng pay-off collections and may have divulged the information to the INQUIRER as a threat.

"He's not out of the chain of command but out of the chain of collection. Based on my information, there was something he wants and did not get," the senator said.

Lacson said he had "confided" the whistle blower's name to Senate President Franklin Drilon who then sought a Senate investigation into the INQUIRER report that three relatives of a top government official, code-named M1, M2 and JS7, were the biggest beneficiaries of jueteng bribe money.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and his son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo have denied speculations that they were the M1 and M2 referred to in the report.

He said the whistle blower used to be under his command when he Philippine National Police chief.

"Once upon a time he was involved in a fishing expedition in the United States with me as target. He went around, pointed at some buildings, saw an apartment building and listed it as owned by Lacson," the senator said.

Lacson said the police officer became a provincial director of a "jueteng-rich province," then was made head of a national support unit in Camp Crame.

While in Camp Crame, this police officer was involved in an operation against a mosque in Quiapo which became an embarrassment for the government because the alleged terrorist suspects were eventually released.

Lacson said nothing will come out of the Senate inquiry if the whistle blower won't talk about M1, M2 and JS7.

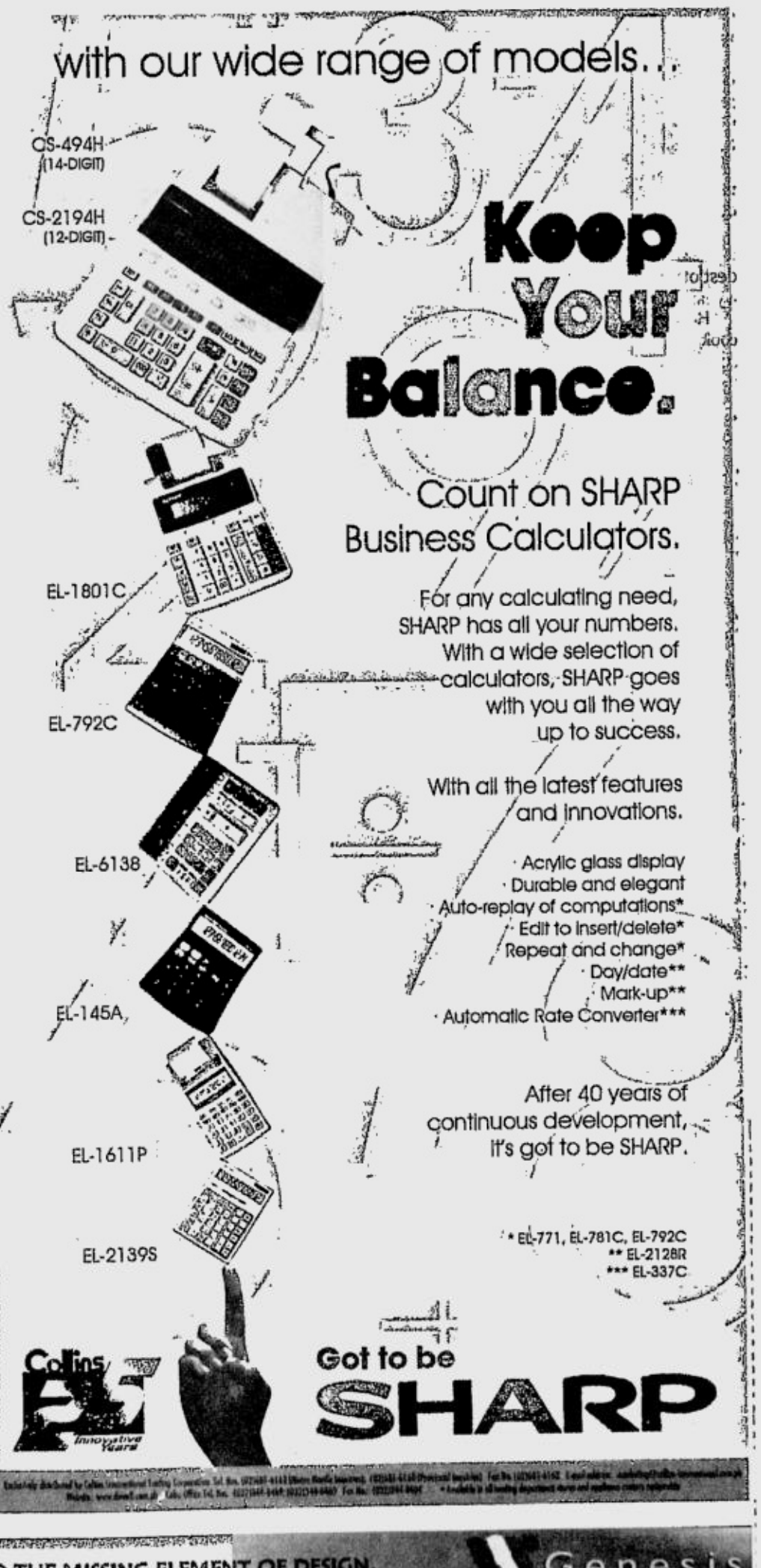
"He was the one who started the fire. Either he fan the flame or shut up," Lacson said.

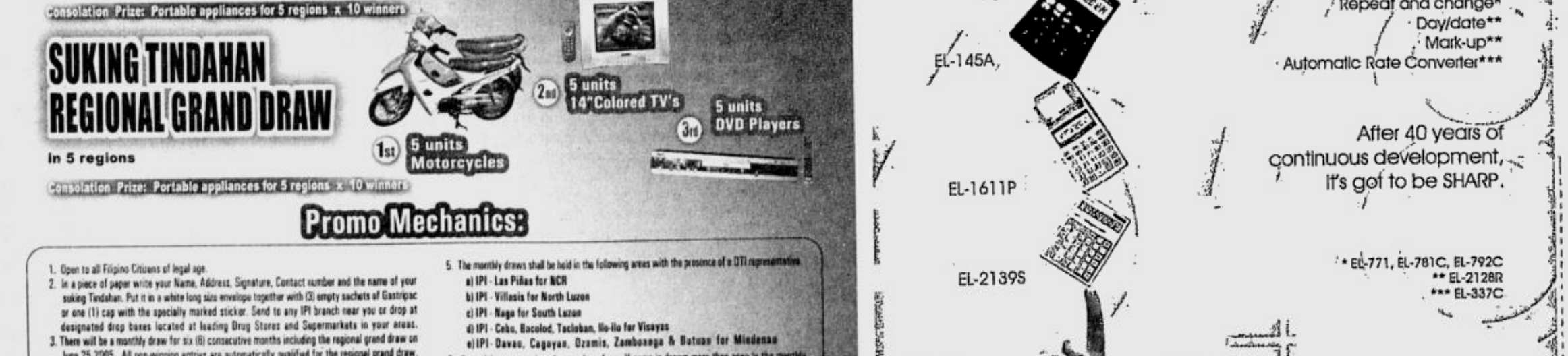
He recalled how his "Jose Pidal" exposé against Mike Arroyo got "stonewalled in the Senate."

"Up to this point, no committee report has come out," he said.

Lacson accused the First Couple of maintaining secret bank accounts from questionable funds but Mike Arroyo's brother Negros Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo came forward to claim ownership of the Jose Pidal accounts.

Iggy Arroyo, however, refused to testify at the Senate inquiry.





Haydee bares Palace pressure to quit PCGG

From page A1

schemes concerning the disposition of the billion-peso coconut levy funds.

Lagonera's phone call underlined the Palace's impatience with Yorac and its determination to get her out of the way of its plans.

Yorac's resignation letter reads:

"Dear Madam President:

"This will tender my resignation from the Presidential Commission on Good Government effective April 30, 2005.

"I am not interested in, nor will I accept, any other position in the government. Rest assured, however, that I will continue to keep my interest in the coco-levy and other PCGG cases while being out of government.

"Thank you."

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the letter, which Malacañang withheld from reporters at a press briefing by Ermita on Wednesday, when he announced that Ms Arroyo had accepted Yorac's resignation.

The letter contained a warning that Yorac would not keep quiet about the schemes on the coconut levy funds when she returns to private law practice.

It also slammed the door on the administration's moves to give her another government job, including a directorship in the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Health issue emphasized

Yorac's resignation took on a vicious aspect when it was depicted by the administration as mainly an upshot of her poor health.

The health factor was emphasized; the pressure that forced her to step down was glossed over.

This picture, which was reflected and highlighted in certain sections of the media, tended to show Yorac as incapacitated and nearly dying, which was farthest from the truth.

The difficulties between Yorac and the administration became more pronounced recently over two issues—the government's decisions affecting Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's control of San Miguel Corp., and the rush of the sale of the government shares in SMC on questionable terms.

Yorac began to feel pressure from the Palace in the last quarter of last year, following her medical treatment in the United States for cancer and a mild stroke, from which she appears to have recovered.

She said Palace emissaries had kept on asking her to resign after she vigorously opposed the Malacañang-backed projects on the coconut levy funds.

The pressure appeared to be a way of taking advantage of her health, in an effort to wear her down to quit.

Gutierrez as emissary

Yorac said one of the emissaries was Merceditas Gutierrez, the President's chief legal counsel and a classmate of the President's husband at the Ateneo Law School. She said Gutierrez offered her a job as DBP director if she stepped down, which she rejected.

The pressure was such that Yorac refused to see Gutierrez at all. At one point, according to a PCGG official, she warned Gutierrez that she would call a press conference to denounce the latter's intervention.

Because Yorac refused to see Gutierrez anymore, Ermita was prompted to send his deputy to ascertain reports that the PCGG chair had planned to resign on April 15.

Yorac said the tension was getting unbearable and her position was getting untenable whenever it collided with that of the President.

She said that as early as the middle of last year, she had planned to resign.

But before she quit, she made sure that the legal framework for the protection of the coconut farmers' interests was in place.

She had the cases and pleadings prepared, and these are now awaiting final court decisions.

Late last year, she said, she was on the verge of quitting but was constrained by the fact that two commissioners had resigned and there would have been no quorum, paralyzing the PCGG.

P47-B stake

Last February, Ms Arroyo announced that she had ordered the sale of the government's estimated P47-billion stake in SMC to finance the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

She said she had ordered Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima to sell the stake because the government could only use the interest earnings from the coconut levy funds for as long as the shares are tied up in SMC.

The first PCGG chair, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, conceded the government's legal right to dispose of the shares. But he voiced concern as to whether the proceeds would ultimately go to the real owners, the coconut farmers.

This concern has repeatedly been raised by Yorac.

Yorac has estimated the 27-percent government stake in SMC to be worth P47 billion, although industry analysts have estimated its worth at between P27.3 billion and P43.7 billion.

In May 2004, the Sandiganbayan awarded the 27-percent bloc of SMC shares to the government, ruling that it was owned by the government in trust for the coconut farmers.

The PCGG wants the sale of the government shares to be made transparent, through public bidding, Yorac told the INQUIRER.

Unless the Supreme Court finally rules on the ownership of the stocks, the government cannot be in a position to get a premium price, she said.

Yorac does not want the sale rushed.

Once the courts make a final decision on the coconut levy funds, the question is who would administer the money once it is out of SMC hands, she said.

According to a lawyer familiar with the case, "if you sell at this point, without a definitive Sandiganbayan decision, the sale will be legally infirm and you cannot get the most advantageous price."

New player

On another issue, Yorac ran into a strong argument with government nominees in SMC for approving a management-endorsed stock offering.

Late last year, Manuel Pangilinan, CEO of the Philippine Long Distance Co., asked Yorac what his group could do to buy SMC shares. She told him to talk to the President.

Pangilinan did so, and then went back to Yorac. According to a PCGG official, the President told Pangilinan that "they should deal with her and not with Mike" ("Mike" presumably referring to Mike Arroyo, her husband).

The interest shown by Pangilinan in SMC shares is significant in that a new player has emerged in the competition for control over the coconut levy funds and SMC.

In this competition, the President holds a pivotal position whose support is likely to be sought by either Cojuangco or Pangilinan.

The role of the next PCGG chair—Camilo Sabio—is crucial. Will he be as independent as Yorac in defending public interest?

Bad time

Yorac's resignation was followed closely by that of retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as alternate ex-officio chair of the National Resources Development Corp.

The two were among a few ranking administration officials who enjoyed high public credibility for their competence and integrity.

Their resignations came at a bad time for the government, which is buffeted by allegations of corruption (especially the "jueteng" scandal linking persons supposedly close to the President), plummeting satisfaction ratings, and public unrest over rising prices of fuel, food and other basic commodities.

These are expected to further erode confidence in the administration and its ability to overcome the fiscal deficit crisis amid the continuing stalemate on the value-added tax legislation in the congressional bicameral committee.

As well, these could spark more resignations from a government that is being increasingly perceived by the business community and the wider public as losing control and ineffectual.

GMA to Yorac: Good job

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday complimented Haydee Yorac amid speculation that they did not see eye to eye on the government's tolerance of San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's rising influence in the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerate.

Speaking at a press conference in Malacañang, Ms Arroyo said of the resigned chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government: "She has done a great job. I am thankful for what she has been able to accomplish. It was during her administration, our administration, that we finally moved on those lingering cases."

The President credited Yorac for her "very good legal efforts" to recover the $684-million Marcos Swiss accounts, ending 17 years of legal battle, and for the Sandiganbayan decision upholding the government's majority control of the United Coconut Planters Bank and the coconut farmers' right to the 27-percent stake in SMC.

She declared that the proceeds "from the coco levy fund that we won in court, as well as the Marcos wealth, will be used for the good of the farmers."

Ms Arroyo aired her compliments shortly after Yorac declared in a radio interview that she did not know whether the President was happy with her performance as PCGG chair.

Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Dancer, away for 20 years, returns to culture shock

From page A1

the Philippines where the ballet company performs and rehearses.

"If I have learnt anything since returning, it is how much I took for granted while away," he said. "You have to remember that when I left, Ferdinand Marcos was still President ... I still have a lot of reassimilating to do," he added with a broad smile.

President Marcos, whose regime was marked by massive corruption, was deposed in 1986 following a popular revolt. But successive presidents had failed to solve the country's problems of huge poverty and a gaping rich-poor chasm.

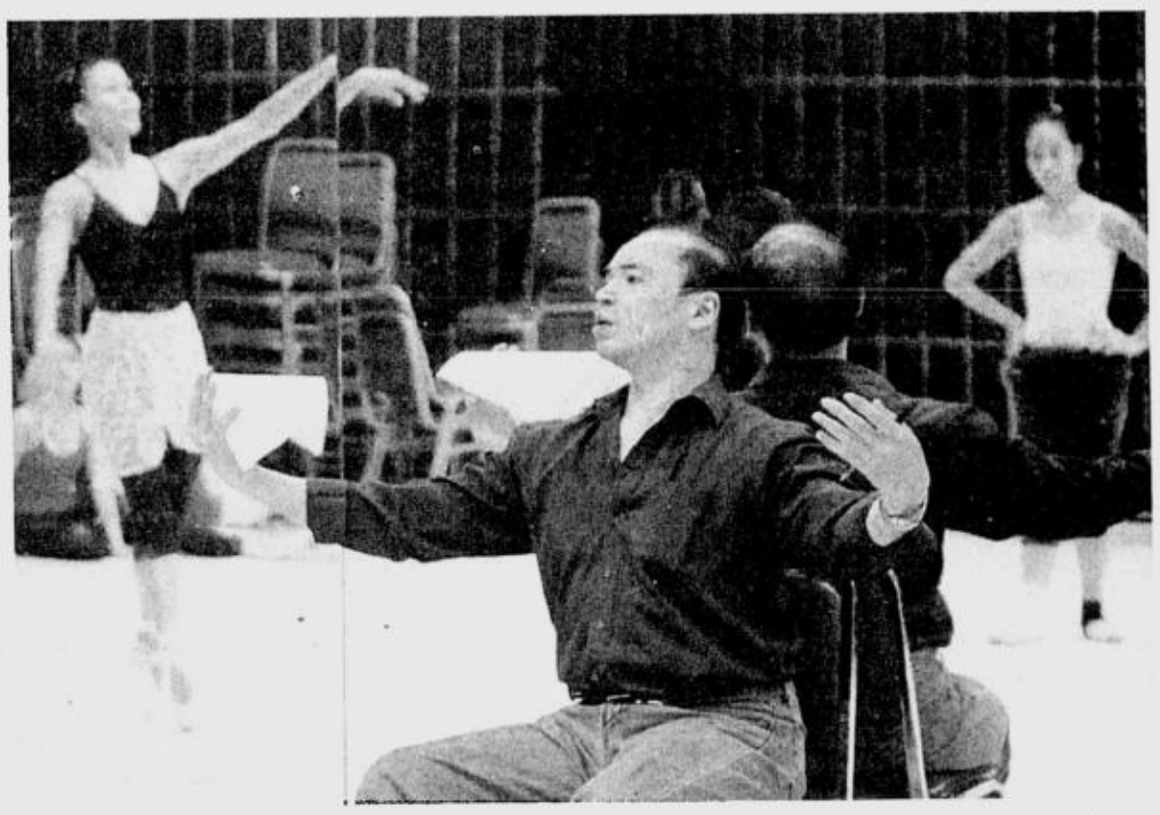
That ballet dancers in the Philippines earn a relative pittance reflects the sorry state of the country's debt-ridden economy where over half the population live on less than P100 or less than $2 a day according to the World Bank.

Estimates vary but it is often said that 95 percent of the country's wealth is held by just a couple of dozen large families.

Worn-out shoes

Although the arts are well patronized by the rich it is still largely a hand-to-mouth existence for most of the performers. Ballet Philippines is putting on four shows this year for a fraction of the budget many overseas companies spend on a single show.

"I would be embarrassed to say how much these dancers earn but let's just say it is a day-to-day struggle just to live," said the 41-year-old Manila born dancer of his new charges.



"BALLET dancers here merely exist compared to Europe's who are paid well," says Damian who took over the national ballet based at the Cultural Center of the Philippines last December. AFP

"I see them dancing in worn-out shoes because they are only allotted six pairs a year. In Germany I could get six pairs in a month. The lighting is poor and the dance floor is not the best," he said. "It is easy to motivate your passion when you don't have to worry about whether you have enough money for the jeepney fare. Here, dancers exist."

Damian, who took over the national ballet at the end of last year, said he had 17 dancers in March.

"By the first of April we had half that many ... most of those who resigned have gone to Hong Kong to work for Disneyland ... you don't have to figure out why," he said.

Passion for dance

"But I am an optimist. I can bring on some of the dozen or so apprentices we have. There is no lack of kids wanting to dance. Our summer school program is bursting with kids ... many of them boys. You cannot take away the enthusiasm of these young people. They want to dance but it's not easy to have a passion for something and simply exist ... there has to be more," he said.

For Damian, there was no question about his passion for dancing, but he was also lucky.

He first started to dance when he was six and by the time he was 19, Damian was dancing with the Ballet Philippines. His life changed in the summer of 1984 while dancing in one of the Ballet's summer workshops.

"The guest teacher was Rosemary Helliwell, a ballerina with the Stuttgart Ballet," he recalled. "She was impressed with my dancing and asked if I would be interested in dancing in Europe. Of course I said yes but thought nothing of it at the time."

Within two weeks after Helliwell left the Philippines, she sent Damian a letter saying: "I hope you are learning German because you have just been engaged as the principal male dancer with the Kiel State Theatre."

Having it all

With a one-way ticket and $700 in his pocket, Damian left for what was then West Germany—a country he had never seen let alone spoke its language. "But at 19 you never think of these things," he said.

"What amazed me was being given the job in the first place. The director didn't know me nor had he seen me dance ... it was all purely on Helliwell's recommendation," he added.

For the next 20 years, Damian danced the lead roles in many of Germany's most distinguished ballet companies to much critical acclaim. He danced in some of Europe's finest theaters and with some of Europe's great ballet stars such as Lynne Charles, Sylvie Guillem, Michael Dennard and Jorg Donne.

"I guess you could say I had it all and I did. But I promised myself that I would call it a day when I reached 35. That birthday came and went so I gave myself another five years before saying goodbye to the stage which I had given so much of my life to," he said.

Back in Manila, the first question people would ask Damian was why he quit the European stage.

"My answer to that question is quite simple ... it was time to go," he said. "Over the last 20 years I have had a dream run. I could not have wished for anything better. I left on a high note, and no, I have absolutely no regrets at all."

Feeling homesick

But was it a hard decision to make?

"No, not really. I had made up my mind and I was ready. There was no emotion or tears involved. I did not want to be one of those people who could not say goodbye to the stage. I did not want people to whisper 'he should have retired years ago'," he said.

Damian also admitted that he had been feeling a bit homesick.

Regrets

"I had only been home for four weeks in those 20 years. I had missed so much. Not only within the country but also within my own family," he said. "I wasn't here when my father died, something which I will always regret. I missed the marriages and the births."

But as artistic director of Ballet Philippines, Damian would face perhaps his biggest professional challenge yet. It's not going to be easy.

"I am an optimist," he said with a smile, just glad to be home. *AFP*

2 proposals to keep Filipino doctors from going ...

From page A1

period before being allowed to seek greener pastures elsewhere.

Dr. Antonio Dans, chief of the Philippine General Hospital's adult medicine section, said his proposal was also meant to encourage doctors to stay and plot their career as "generalists or internists."

He noted that there was a wide gap between the number of general practitioners and specialists like cardiologists and pulmonologists.

The discrepancy has made health care more costly, he said.

When patients have to deal with many specialists, they naturally have to shell out more money, he explained.

But many of these cases can very well be handled by an internist who has a "broad knowledge and approach," Dans said.

No problem with specialists

"We're not saying that there's a problem with specialists. The problem is with the proportion (between the number of internists and specialists), not with the people," the doctor explained.

In fact, specialists such as cardiologists can be of help to internists by coming up with guidelines in the handling of cases like hypertension, Dans said.

The Philippine College of Physicians will tackle the problems during its 350th annual convention on May 3 to 6 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Clash of 2 rights

"It's really a clash of two rights," said Dans.

"While a doctor has the right to find his own destiny, the government also has the right to make sure that its investment becomes worthwhile," he said.

A logical requirement would be a year's service in government hospitals for every year of training, Dans has proposed.

This will mean that a doctor who has completed a regular three-year residency in a state institution like the PGH cannot leave for abroad until he serves for three more years in the country.

An estimated 30 percent of the country's 100,000 registered doctors have migrated to North America, according to Philippine Medical Association president Bu Castro.

Dans' proposal essentially seeks to expand an existing policy covering doctors sent by government hospitals for training abroad to cover all medical graduates of state institutions.

Dans, who was sent on a fellowship to train for two years on clinical epidemiology and cardiology at the McMaster University in Canada, said he had to work at the PGH for six years after completing the course.

Short-term solution

"It's a contract used by some government institutions. I think we can use this principle on more doctors to encourage them to stay," he said.

But this idea would provide only a short-term solution to the medical diaspora, he said.

"We really have to give them a reason to stay. And this involves a long-term solution that would entail an improved economy, among other things," said Dans.

Pinoy gang uses sexy girls to hit tourists in KL airport

From page A1

port, the Star newspaper reported Friday.

It said the women gang members, wearing short skirts, identify male victims and make small talk by asking for directions. When the passenger is looking away they take his laptop bag and hand it over to a male gang member as he walks past, the Star said.

It said the scam came to light a few days ago when plainclothes airport security personnel caught three of the gang's Filipino members—two women and a man—while they were stealing a laptop from a 40-year-old businessman.

The Star quotes police as saying they believe more members of the gang are still at large, and that they may be responsible for many more such thefts at the airport. *AFP*

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Police on full alert for May 1 rallies

POLICE will go on full alert nationwide to preempt possible violence and plots to undermine the government during Labor Day street protests by workers seeking wage hikes and groups opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 17,000-strong Metro Manila police force has already drafted security measures in anticipation of mass actions expected to be staged by militant, labor and political organizations tomorrow.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Avelino Razon Jr. said the entire Metro police force would go on full alert starting today.

He said he had instructed all district directors to maintain police visibility and to form special teams that could quickly respond to emergency situations.

Razon said that security in vital installations, including government agencies, transportation and communication facilities, oil depots as well as highly populated areas would be intensified.

In Manila, Western Police District Director Pedro Bulaong said that the "no permit, no rally" policy will be strictly enforced.

"We have not monitored any destabilization threat," Razon told Reuters. "These are just political rumors. Traditionally, we expect big crowds during Labor Day rallies and our main job is to maintain order." Rallies are also planned in other major cities.

In a dinner with INQUIRER editors on Thursday night, PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said no group has the capability to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

No capability

"You cannot sustain the momentum for a destabilization attempt," Lomibao said. "You need money. You need a sizable military component. No group has the resources to mount one."

Lomibao said the country would "definitely not" see a repeat of the May 2001 siege.

Another PNP ranking official, Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, said opposition groups may try to create an atmosphere similar to what existed in 2001, but said they would not be able to sustain it.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes also downplayed reports of a destabilization attempt, saying he expects the protest actions on Sunday to be "generally peaceful."

"Our assessment is that we will have a generally peaceful celebration of May 1," Reyes said.

Four years ago, thousands of urban slum dwellers supporting deposed President Joseph Estrada marched through the streets and tried to storm the gates of the presidential palace during a Labor Day rally that ended in violence and destruction. Four people died and more than a hundred were wounded.

Razon said hundreds of soldiers were on standby in several military camps around the capital to reinforce antiriot police.

Labor groups planned to take to the streets on Sunday to demand across-the-board wage increases to cope with rising prices of food, fuel and other basic goods. The unions have also opposed government plans to raise the value-added tax rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Groups opposed to the President vowed to mobilize some 50,000 followers tomorrow and press for her "immediate ouster" from Malacañang. "We will not stop until she sees the light and voluntarily returns power to the people," Ronald Lumbao, leader of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), said.

The PMAP, which is identified with Estrada, will link up the National Council of Concerned Volunteers (NCCV), which has links to the late actor and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., for a march to Mendiola.

The United National Opposition is "supporting" labor groups which have threatened to hold massive protests, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said. "The UNO will support all organizations fighting for pro-poor and pro-people issues," Ejercito said.

Taking turns

According to the NCCV's Linggoy Alcuaz, rallyists will converge at several points in Metro Manila before holding a rally at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo at 1 p.m. The groups—led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bayan Muna and Anakpawis—will march to Liwasang Bonifacio for a rally at 3 p.m. before proceeding to the Mendiola Bridge at 5 p.m. for a final rally.

According to him, groups identified with the administration had been given the "permit" to hold a rally at the Mendiola Bridge from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. "When they leave, it will be our turn," Alcuaz said.

At the rallies, the Union of Masses for Democracy, Justice and Peace and the PMAP are expected to unite with urban poor groups led by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said that the forces of Edsas I and II had "put away their essential differences and are now united in opposing the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency," together with forces allied with Estrada.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero earlier confirmed this, saying the opposition camps of Estrada and the late Poe Jr. now called the United Opposition would bring in "warm bodies" to the May 1 rallies. Escudero is one of the 70 co-authors of House Bill No. 345 seeking a legislated P125 wage hike for private workers.

Its principal sponsors are party-list Representatives Beltran, Teddy Casiño, Rafael Mariano, Liza Maza, Joel Virador, Rene Magtubo and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman.

Casiño, for his part, filed yesterday HB 4240, seeking to grant income tax exemptions to workers earning below P21,000 a month.

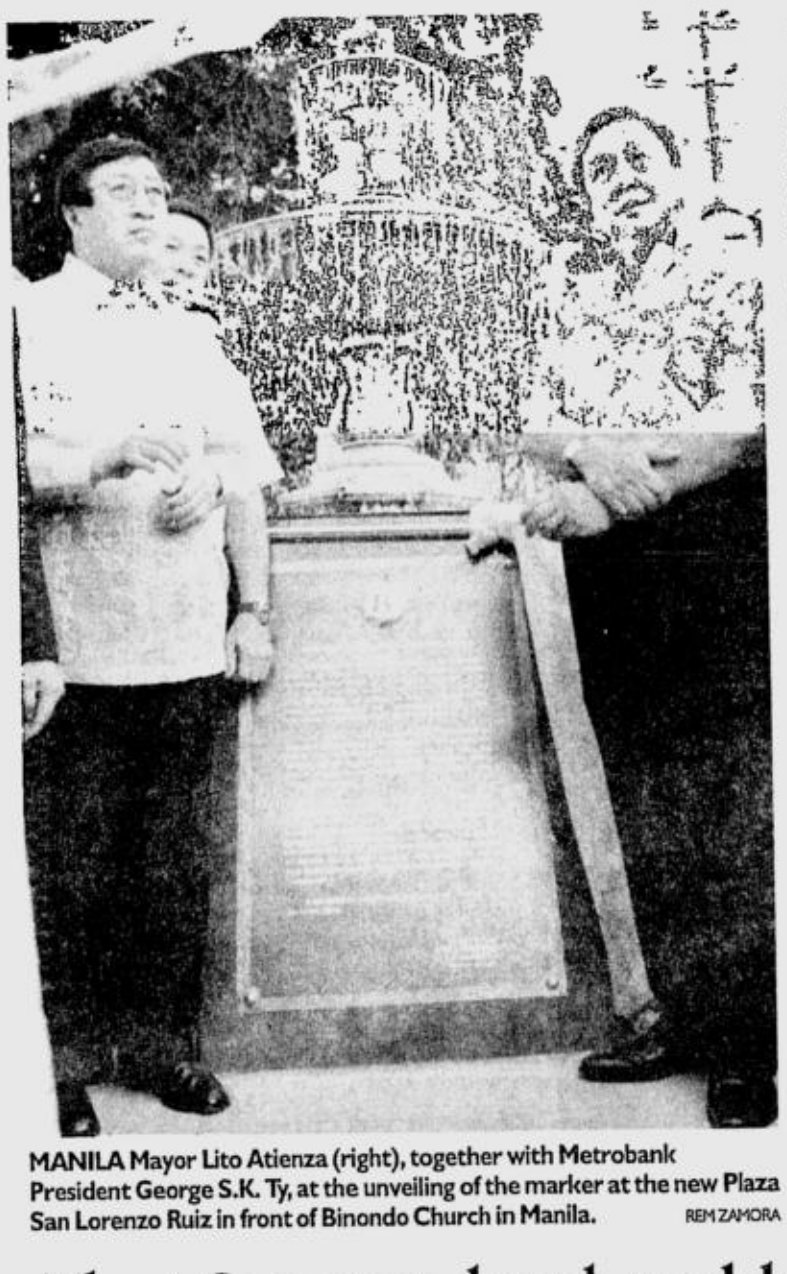
President's day

Meanwhile, the President will meet with moderate labor groups belonging to the Labor Solidarity Movement in Malacañang, on Labor Day according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

The Labor Day celebration to be held in Malacañang on Sunday will kick off with a Mass for national unity followed by a program put together by different labor groups.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo was expected to disclose her administration's plans to help workers, among those heavily affected by the continued hike of oil prices and other commodities. *Tina Santos, Luige del Puerto, Fe Zamora, Michael Lim Ubac, Fran Katigbak, Edson Tandoc Jr., Christine O. Avendaño, Reuters, Jean Marionne Bermudez*

Renovated park in Binondo opens to public



MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza (right), together with Metrobank President George S.K. Ty, at the unveiling of the marker at the new Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz in front of Binondo Church in Manila. REM ZAMORA

By Tina G. Santos

AFTER Manila's Arroceros Park was closed over a bitter dispute involving the local government and an environmental group, another has opened its gates to the public.

Residents in the Binondo district can now enjoy the beauty of the once-forlorn Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz fronting the Binondo Church after it was extensively renovated by the Manila City government and the Metrobank Foundation.

Named after the first Filipino saint, the plaza had gone to seed because of neglect. What speeded up the park's deterioration, according to Mayor Lito Atienza, was the fact that it was fenced in, making it inaccessible and unwelcome to residents in the area.

For some years, the park had virtually become a no-man's land and the favorite hangout of drug addicts and criminals preying on commuters and pedestrians in the crowded Binondo district.

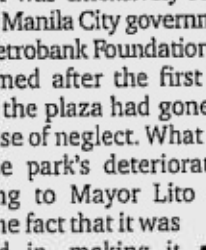
"The park used to be the lair of prostitutes, vagrants and snatchers who often victimized churchgoers and pedestrians," the mayor said. The 1,200-sq. m. plaza was redeveloped to provide free recreation facilities to residents, particularly to the Chinese community in the area, he added.

Atienza said the tearing down of the fences also led to the discovery of a San Lorenzo Ruiz statue, two centuries-old markers and two all-steel antique fountains, which were all restored. Part of the landscaping improvements included the installation of benches and more lights as a deterrent against crime.

"We have added new trees in the park to provide shade," the mayor said. "This shows that City Hall is very committed to the enhancement of the environment of open spaces in Manila."

That Cagayan land-grabbing case

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

THE INFLUENTIAL Padilla family in Cagayan is fighting to retain control of 375 hectares of what was once forest land, which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered returned to farmers tilling it.

The DENR entrusted to 100 farmer families the former forest land in question for agriculture. But somehow, the Padillas, using their connections, were able to grab the property from the farmers.

After several years, the DENR ordered the land returned to the farmer-tillers. The Department of Justice was also ordered to file a criminal complaint against the Padillas.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who ordered the filing of the criminal complaint, said he had talked to Cagayan Gov. Edgar Lara, who told him that if the government didn't handle the case well, the communist New People's Army (NPA) might have new sympathizers among the farmer-claimants.

I'm told that one of the Padillas, Victor, a lawyer, has approached some of his "brods" at the Aquila Legis, a fraternity of Ateneo law graduates. He reportedly sought financial assistance from his "brods."

Victor Padilla, you're a disgrace to the Ateneo.

An Atenean is supposed to be "a man for others." You're just a man for yourself. And, will you stop your character assassination of this writer in the e-mail? You're just showing how petty you are for an Atenean.

* * *

Reuel F. Macam, an activist in his student days, brought his daughter to the Medical City in Pasig to give birth.

Due to a misdiagnosis and delayed action by a doctor, Macam complained to this writer, his daughter had developed complications although the baby is safe.

As a result, his medical and hospital bills have piled up.

"It's not our fault that my daughter has to stay long in the hospital for a simple delivery due to misdiagnosis and wrong application of medicine," Macam said.

I agree. Why should the patient be made to pay for the doctor's fault?

* * *

All those rumors about First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his son, Pampanga Congressman Mikey, dipping their fingers into the "jueteng" jar are fabrications.

Why should the Arroyos receive jueteng protection money when they know full well it caused the downfall of President Estrada? The Arroyos are not that stupid.

Besides, I talked with some insiders in the jueteng industry—the illegal small-town lottery has become a multimillion-peso industry—and they all laughed at the rumors.

"Gawa-gawa lang ng mga kalaban 'yan, Mon (Those stories are made up by detractors)," an insider said.

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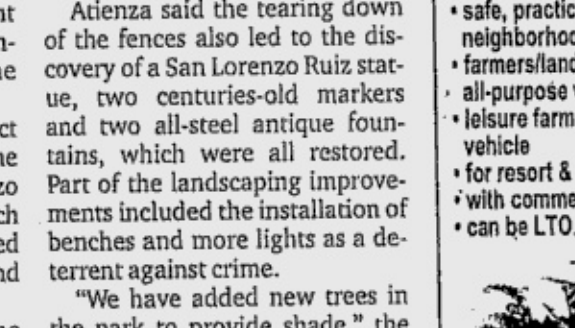

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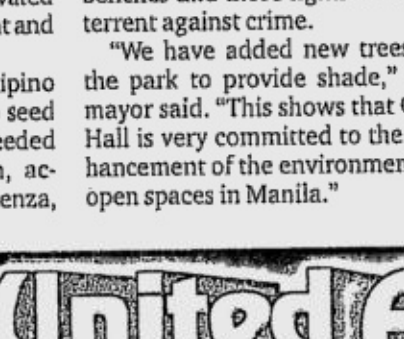

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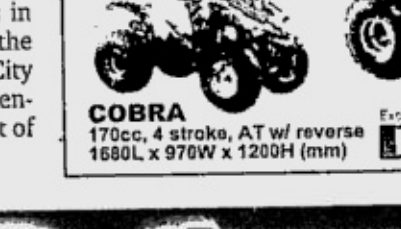

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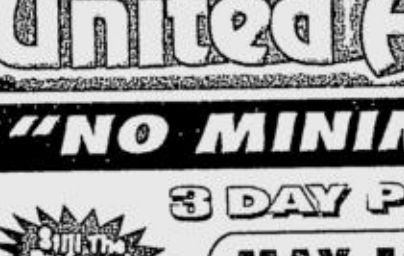

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Court sends Roldan case back to DOJ

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PASIG City Regional Trial Court (RTC) suspended proceedings on the kidnapping case against actor and former congressman Dennis Roldan, saying the justice department should first conduct a preliminary investigation.

Judge Agnes Carpio of the Pasig RTC Branch 261 said no arrest warrant or commitment order would be issued against Roldan in the meantime. The judge gave the National Prosecution Office at least 30 days to complete the preliminary investigation.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchel Yap Gumabao, is the alleged mastermind in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy in February. His group allegedly asked for P250 million as ransom.

The justice department filed a case against the suspect in the Pasig City RTC on March 3.

Roldan said he was deprived of the right to a preliminary investigation, but the prosecution said he waived his right to a preliminary investigation. The court found merit in the arguments of the defense.

"The right of an accused to preliminary investigation... cannot be overly emphasized... It is not a mere formal or technical right; it is a substantive right," Carpio said in her decision. If Roldan undergoes preliminary investigation, he may also petition for bail.

While Roldan's case was sent back to the justice department, the prosecution formally charged yesterday Roldan's alleged girlfriend Suzette Wang, who was also implicated in the kidnapping. Also charged were Noel San Andres, Romeo Orcajada, Adrian Domingo and Octavio Garces.

METROBRIEFS

Dasmariñas Village fire

A FIRE damaged yesterday morning a plush two-story house in an upscale Makati village reportedly belonging to the owner of a well-known restaurant chain. Firefighters used water from the next door neighbor's swimming pool to control the blaze. "We were so thankful that the neighbors volunteered," said Supt. Arsenio Tabajonda, chief of the Makati City Fire Department. The fire began around 10:44 a.m. inside one of the rooms at the second floor of the house at 2382 Mabolo Street, Dasmariñas Village, owned by Alberto Barretto, the owner of the Via Mare chain of fine-dining restaurants. Tabajonda said the neighbors offered the use of their pool when they noticed the firemen were looking for fire hydrants. The blaze, Tabajonda said, began near the room's air-conditioning unit and might have been caused by overloading or electrical short circuit. Though much of the house was spared, Tabajonda said damage caused by the fire might make the 30-year-old house no longer livable. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Church forum

APPRECIATION of the commonalities inherent in Islam and Christianity is the focus at the Third Muslim-Christian Forum on Commonalities today, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Cosmopolitan Church, corner Agoncillo and Taft Avenue, Manila. The forum is sponsored by the United Church Men with the objective of informing the audience on what are common in the cultures and beliefs of both religions so that its adherents can appreciate each other, live in harmony together, and work for sustained peace and development throughout the land. Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, will be the guest speaker. The forum is open to the public.

Faeries opening

FAERIES Faeries, an enchanted fairyland that offers cosmetics and personal care products, opens its doors to patrons today at Waltermart, Chino Roces Street (P. Tamo), Makati City. A store for the young and the young-at-heart who have always believed in fairies, accessories, stationery and small gift items with fairy designs are for sale as well. The store's design carried on bottles with tiny fairy figurines highlight the store's fairy concept. Colognes, hand and body moisturizers, hand sanitizers and shower gel, are available, as well as handcrafted fairy earrings, pendants, necklaces, fairy décor made of stained glass, and hand-painted T-shirts. The store also has a refilling station for personal care products.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs, First Round, Pistons vs Sixers, Game 3; 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.) Solar Sports; Sonics vs Kings, Game 3; 10:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); ESPN—The battle continues in the NBA Playoffs with a pair of crucial encounters.

BILLIARDS: San Miguel Asian 9 Ball Tour, Kaohsiung; 3 p.m.; STAR Sports—Find out if Filipinos rule the quarterfinal round in Taiwan.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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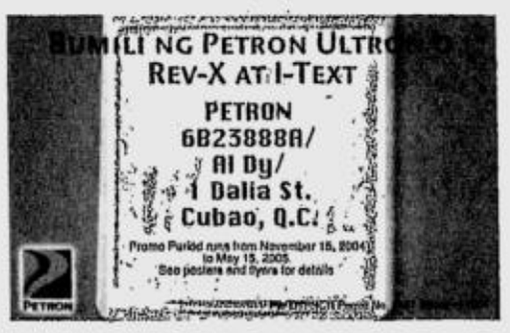
Compiled by L. Mangulat



10-day race replaces Tour

IT'S official. There will be no Tour Pilipinas this year.

Bikathon enthusiasts need not worry though for a group called Dynamic Outsource Solutions, Inc. or Dos I has scheduled a short but equally grand event in celebration of the 50th anniversary of multistage cycling in the country.

The 10-day classic, according to Dos I president and chief-operating-officer Reuben Pangan, is tentatively scheduled May 26 to June 5 and will be participated in by the country's finest riders representing 10 teams of eight riders each.

"*Tuloy na tuloy na po ito* (It's all systems go) and only the minor details are being ironed out," Pangan, assured yesterday during the SCOOP sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Malate.

The race, he added, is titled "Golden Tour 50 at '05."

Pangan, who was at the session along with Philippine Cycling Federation secretary general Mar Mendoza and Waterfront Hotel-Cebu president Patrick Gregorio, said seven corporate sponsors have already confirmed adopting a team each.

"By Tuesday next week, we will know how much budget we will be needing and the amount of prizes that will be at stake," he said. "What I can assure everybody is that there is nothing that can stop us from holding a tour to celebrate cycling's 50th year anniversary."

Mendoza confirmed that the Tour Pilipinas, which was supposed to be on its third year, has been temporarily suspended due to the appointment of Philcycling president Bert Lina as customs commissioner.

It was Lina who initiated the Tour's revival.

"As a public servant, Lina has to divest all his business investments, including that in Philcycling which is a private undertaking," Mendoza explained even as he thanked Pangan's group for saving this year's tour.

Gregorio, elder brother of Purefoods coach Ryan, said his involvement in the project was brought about by his being into local tourism development.

This time, Philcycling's participation will only be in sanctioning the event.

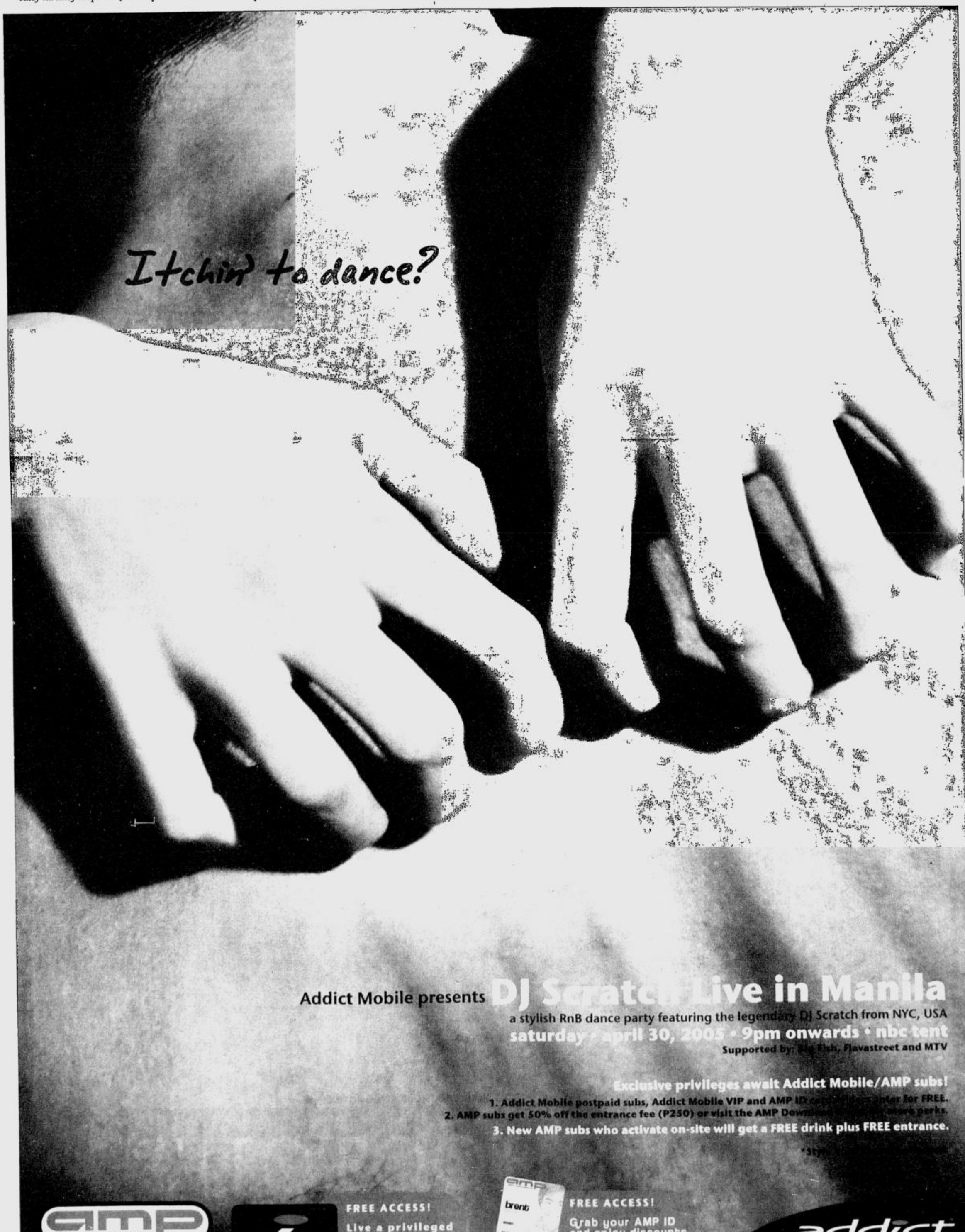
Mendoza said Philcycling will allow all local cyclists, including members of the Pagcor continental team and the national squad to take part in the race, including last year's Tour winner Rhyan Taguilig, former Tour champions Victor Espiritu, Warren Davadilla and Arnel Quirimit.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Miami too hot for New Jersey** /A29

■ **FedEx, Ritualo shoot down Red Bull** /A26

■ **Castañares risks title tonight** /A31



Streetball elims today

STREET basketball swings to Pampanga today when the third stop of the 11-stage nationwide adidas Streetball Challenge is played with close to 50 teams vying for top honors in seniors and girls divisions of the pocket tournament at the University of Assumption in San Fernando City.

Winners will join the other leg champions in the National Finals slated July 30-31 at the Festival Mall with the top teams in various divisions to represent the country in the adidas Asian Streetball Finals slated in September in Manila.

Team Beta of San Beda and Team Galaxy of UP Diliman led the early finalists with victories in the National Capital Region elims while Team Allude and Team Arvinda, both mentored by Emmanuel Ayo, followed suit by topping the Naga qualifiers last week. For details, contact Area coordinator and former PBA player Gil Cortez at (0917) 811-0707 or (045)961-2279.

Mijares, Peroy bag reg'l titles

SPYRO Mijares and Hazel Peroy fashioned a pair of hard-earned victories over their respective rivals to capture the men's and ladies titles in the elite division of the first JVC Regional Badminton Championships at the Metro Sports Badminton Club courts in Lahug, Cebu City yesterday.

Mijares nipped fellow USJ-Recoletos bet Ralph Mendez in a tight first set, dropped the next before outlasting his doubles partner for a 15-13, 8-15, 15-10 victory that netted him P5,000, a trophy and a berth in the JVC Open Badminton Championships in July.

Peroy, playing out of University of Cebu, survived a tough first set against Ginalee Daymiel of Diston Premium Paints before mastering her rival in the next to complete a 13-11, 11-5 win also worth P5,000.

She joined Mijares and the other winners of the other regional tournaments in the national finals set July 4-10 at the Glorietta.

Also topping their respective divisions were Univ. of Cebu's James Rizon, who beat Adrian Ardiza of Univ. of Visayas, 15-12, 15-5, for the boys 16-under plum, and Yedah Fornolles of UC, who disposed of USJ-R Mary Montebon, 11-9, 11-5, for the girls title in the tournament sponsored by JVC (Phils.), Inc. and backed by Gosen, Cebu Pacific, Water Front Hotels, Lactacyd and Accel.

AMAZING RACE: Two participants in the Hundred Islands version of the Amazing Race do a tyrolean traverse between two islets in Alaminos, Pangasinan. RAY ZAMBRANO

Hot Ritualo lifts FedEx past R. Bull

GAME TODAY (*Cavite City*)
4:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—There was no need for a buzzer-beating triple to assure FedEx of a victory, but Renren Ritualo drained one anyway to cap a memorable game for the league's foremost streak shooter.

Ritualo registered a career-high 36 points and fired eight consecutive triples in a quarter to lead the FedEx Express to a 116-106 thumping of the Red Bull Barako last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center.

The former De La Salle University sniper's buzzer-beater over Junthy Valenzuela tied the all-time record of Allan Caidic for the most consecutive three-pointers made.

Ritualo's eight triples in the deciding period also matched a 14-year-old record held by Caidic, who did the trick for Great Taste in 1991.

"When somebody told me that another three-point shot will give me a record of sorts, I was pressured," said the 6-foot-1 Ritualo, whose 27 points in the fourth earned him a tie for third in the all-time most points by a local in a quarter.

Caidic scored 27 points in a quarter back in 1989 before he sizzled for 37 points during the 1991 season, a year after Bong Alvarez made 30 points in 12 minutes.

Alaska grabbed a share of the lead with idle San Miguel by beating Ginebra, 103-85, in the second game.

It was the sixth straight win for the Aces, who won their seventh in 12 games while dealing Ginebra its sixth loss in 11 games. It was the Kings' fourth straight defeat.

The scores:

First Game

FEDEX 116—Ritualo 36, Miller 22, David 20, Arboleda 11, Ferriols 9, Billones 8, Gonzales 5, De Ocampo 3, Dacia 1, Pingris 1.

RED BULL 106—Johnson 34, Tugade 28, Villanueva 15, Asaytono 15, Bagulo 9, Valenzuela 3, Torion 2, Ybañez 0, Bernardo 0, Ejercito 0.

Quarters: 22-17, 59-43, 77-73, 116-106

PFF-Petron under-17 football underway

THE PFF-PETRON Under-17 Championships organized by the Philippine Football Federation kicked off simultaneously in Tarlac and Butuan Wednesday.

Rizal beat Pampanga in a 5-3 thriller over in Tarlac while in Butuan, Surigao, beat Agusan del Sur, 2-1, and Davao del Norte smothered host Butuan/Agusan del Norte, 12-0.

The fast and furious goalfest in Tarlac saw Rizal race to a 3-0 advantage from goals by Anthony de Leon in the 9th minute, Jestoni Eden (30th) and Nino Francisco in the 34th minute.

Michael Jason Carolino brought Pampanga back to life on the 42nd minute with the first of his hat trick that ended the first half at 3-1.

After the break, Carolino returned to the pitch to drill goals on the 63rd and 65th minutes as Pampanga tied the count at 3-3.

With 9 minutes to go, Wilfredo Capuz broke the tieack with a goal and Eden hit another two minutes later to finish off Pampanga.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez said the tournament—for players mostly in 3rd and 4th year high school—hopes to make up for the absence of the under-16 event in last year's football season.

Domeka Garamendi, PFF's acting general-secretary, announced that seven provincial football associations (PFA) are hosting this regional event.

The PFA's are: Tarlac, Legazpi/Albay, Negros Oriental, Iligan/Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur/Pagadian, Butuan/Agusan del Norte, South Cotabato and the National Capital Region.

Pabs Araneta is the tournament commissioner for the tournament backed by PFF partner sponsors adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop and SuperFerry.

It's final: 441 SEAG golds

By Musong R. Castillo

A TOTAL of 441 gold medals will be disputed in the 23rd edition of the Southeast Asian Games the country will host in November.

The final roster of events included 53 more gold medals proposed by host Philippines and approved by the SEAG Federation yesterday to be added to the original 388 that will be at stake in 41 sports.

With the last-minute additions designed to boost the country's overall campaign, the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 event becomes one of the medal-rich editions of the biennial meet which the Philippines is hosting for only the third time.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the Philippine Olympic Committee president, presided over the two-hour session after taking over the resigned Celso Dayrit, his predecessor at the POC.

All 11 nations were represented in the meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Ermita and the uneventful and swift approval of the new events underscored the unity among the member nations.

Gymnastics added a total of six events—two each in the men and women's team and artistic events—while wrestling, canoe/kayak and sailing got one each.

Of the 20 National Sports Associations which requested for additions from the Rules and Sports Committee created by Cojuangco a couple of weeks ago, the gymnastics and archery were the most successful with six new approved followed by karate, shooting and wushu with four each.

Three new events were approved for lawn tennis, table tennis, muay thai and pencak silat and two for aquatics, body building, chess, judo, lawn bowls, sepak takraw and weightlifting. One more event was given to canoe-kayak, sailing and wrestling.

Tennis was happiest with the inclusion of men's and women's team and mixed doubles.

The Philippine Tennis Association hopes to win at least four of the seven events after enlisting two Fil-Ams in the men's lineup and with Thai superstar Paradorn Srichapan reportedly skipping the Games in favor of the money-rich pro Tour.

Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino, legitimate campaigners in the United States ATP Tour, will be anchoring the RP net campaign and will see action in singles, doubles and mixed double events.

Czarina Mae Arevalo and Fil-German Anja Vanessa Peters are the leading candidates to the women's lineup.

Archery will now have a total of eight gold medals at stake with the addition of men and women individual and team compound bow. Karate, with four kata events, will now have 18 from 14 and wushu 22 from 18 with the addition of men and women taijiquan and men and women 45 kg.

OUTGOING Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit (left) turns over the SEA Games Federation Council top post to new POC head Jose "Peping" Cojuangco as Brunei Prince Sufri Bolkiah looks on. RODEL ROTONI

adidas Sports Kamp events begin May 2

THE ADIDAS Sports Kamp (aSK), the country's premier athletic facility at the Fort Bonifacio Global City, is taking advantage of the summer season and the kid's long break from school with the staging of a summer camp featuring some of today's rising sports activities.

According to aSK president Arsenic Laurel, the summer camp is envisioned to provide a better alternative for kids where they can hone their skills and maximize potential in sports specifically baseball, tee-ball, football, wall climbing, and hip-hop dancing.

"Our programs, through these sports disciplines, focus on camper participation. We want the kids to have fun by being outdoors and playing with other kids their age rather than waste precious time in playing computer games, watching television," said Laurel of the summer camp supported by PLDT MyDSL and Snickers.

Titans Baseball Club and Softbelles Inc. will handle the Baseball and T-Ball (M-W-F) 4-6 p.m., while Power Up takes care of the Wall Climbing (M-W-F) 1:30-4 p.m. Soccer (M-W-F) 9-11 a.m., Have-a-Ball (T-TH) 4-5 p.m., and Hip Hop Dancing (T-TH) 4-5 p.m. will be done by in-house aSK coaches.

The camp's second batch begins May 2. Interested parties may visit the camp at the 28th St. cor. Libertad Dr., Bonifacio Global City or call Julie or Aimee at 8161355 and 8160433.

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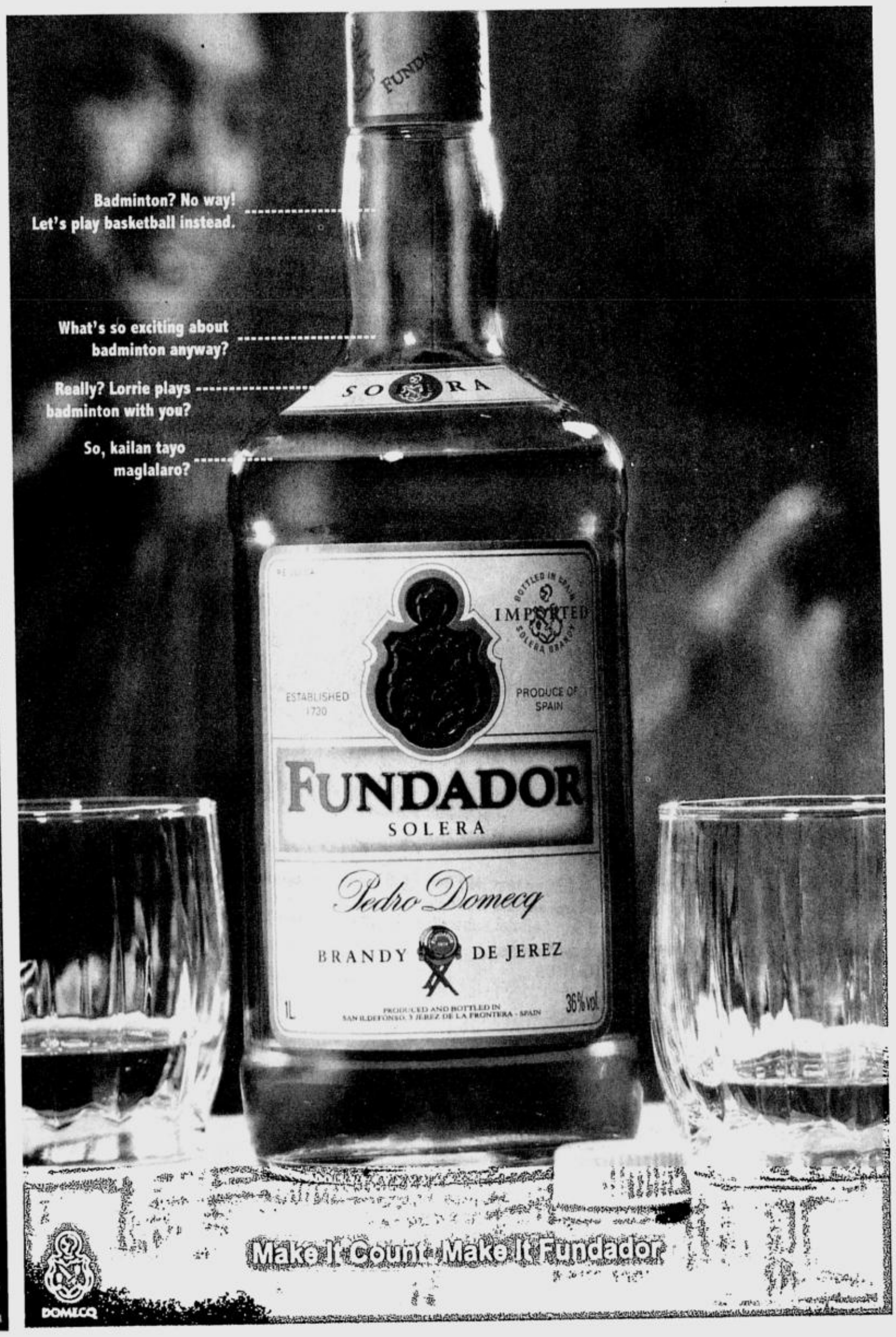


Els storms Shanghai, takes four-stroke lead

SHANGHAI—World No. 3 Ernie Els produced a sizzling 10-under-par 62 to take a four-stroke lead in the second round of the Asian Open on Friday.

The South African carded eight birdies and closed with a superb eagle for a halfway total of 15-under 129.

New Zealand's Eddie Lee was his closest challenger early in the second round after the Asian Tour professional fired a 66.

Els is still working on minor changes to his game after finishing a lowly 47th at the US Masters, but he looked back to his best in steamy Shanghai.

"I felt comfortable with my swing and just wanted to keep going," said the three-time major winner, who tied for sixth at last week's Johnnie Walker Classic in Beijing.

"From where I was last week, mentally and technically, I've made a total about-turn. I'm a little surprised it came this quickly but I'm happy."

Els was in a seven-way tie for the lead after Thursday's first round but holed several long putts on Friday to open a gap on his rivals.

The highlight, however, was a tap-in eagle on the 18th, where Els hit a four-iron from the rough which trickled on to the green and stopped just short of the hole.

ERNIE Els eyes a victory in Asian Open. AFP

"The moment I hit it I was down on my knees watching it. It felt good all the way," said Els, who has won titles in Dubai and Qatar this year. "When you hit shots like that it's going to get you excited."

Lee's 11-under total of 133 was all the more remarkable after missing the cut in all 10 tournaments he has played this year.

"It was always going to come," said the Korean-born Lee. "You do think 'When is my time?' but you just keep patient. You never know when it's going to turn around." *Reuters*

DiMarco ahead in Zurich tourney

AVONDALE, Louisiana—Chris DiMarco got off to a fast start in his first event since losing the Masters in a playoff, shooting a season-best 7-under 65 for a share of the first-round lead in the Zurich Classic on Thursday.

India's Arjun Atwal also opened with a 65, birdieing six of his final nine holes on the TPC of Louisiana, the Pete Dye-designed course in its first year as the tournament site after 16 years at English Turn.

DiMarco, coming off the emotional first-hole loss to Tiger Woods three weeks ago at Augusta National, had a bogey-free round in swirling wind gusts.

"As long as I'm hitting the ball as solid as I'm hitting it, it really doesn't matter if you play in the wind or not," DiMarco said. "My irons are very crisp and when you hit crisp iron shots the wind doesn't affect them as much."

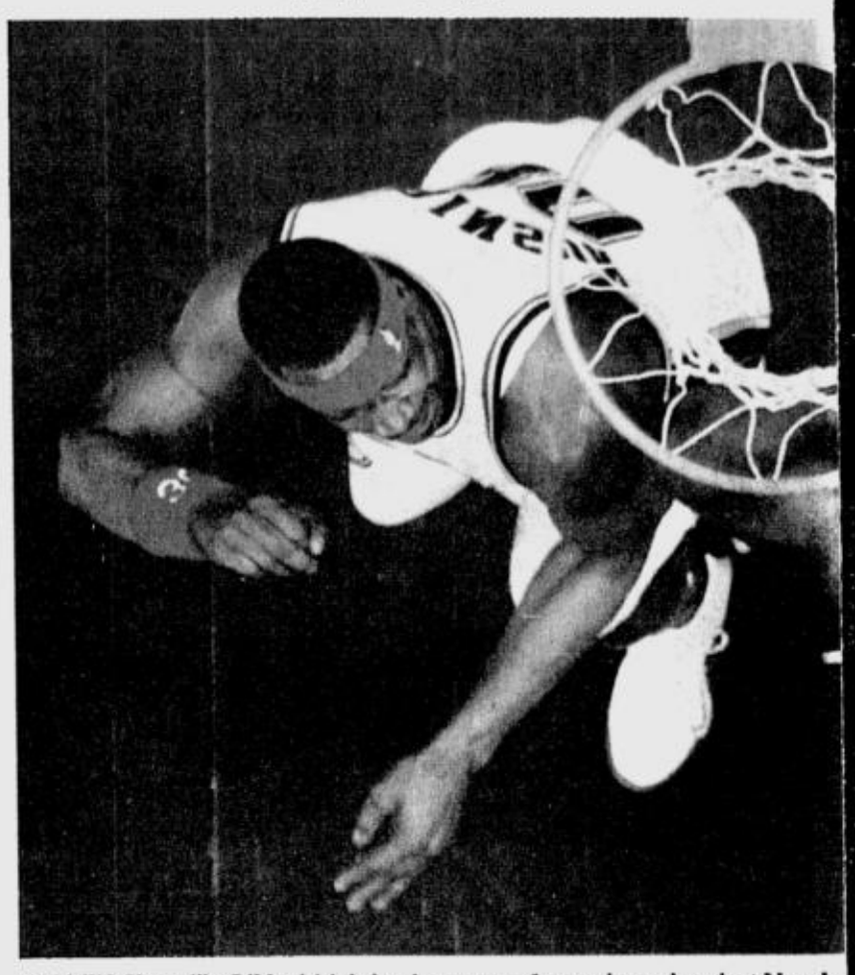
DiMarco, who started the round on No. 10, had three birdies on the first nine holes. He got to 4 under with a birdie on No. 1, made five straight pars, and holed a 20-foot eagle putt on the par-5 seventh. He closed the round with a birdie on No. 9.

"You just got to know where to miss it on this golf course," DiMarco said. "You got to know which side you can get up and down from and not try to be real aggressive. I had the luxury of being a couple under par and not having to go for certain pins."

Atwal, who lost a playoff last month in the BellSouth Classic, said he concentrated on his putting.

"I just tried to make pars because it was so windy," Atwal said. "Then I got things going on the front nine."

Defending champion Vijay Singh was in a group at 67. *AP*



MIAMI'S Shaquille O'Neal (right), who goes up for a rebound against New Je

SLAM-DUNK SYMBOL

Yao is model of ne

By Percy D. Della
Correspondent

SACRAMENTO—Houston Rockets center Yao Ming—undoubtedly Asia's most famous overseas worker—checks off another achievement come May Day.

A Los Angeles report from Beijing said the 7-foot-6 basketball superstar has been chosen by the ruling Communist party as one of China's model workers—along with the chief executive of a software company and the chair of an industrial firm.

Although it did not say that Chair Mao Tse-tung must be cringing in his grave, the Times report said China's model Communist worker used to be someone like the famed Iron Man Wang.

An illiterate farmer, Wang was a fabled personality so dedicated to nation building he once threw himself into a construction pit to mix cement with his own body.

"Now, in a land of cell phones, high-tech workers and instant millionaires, photos of Iron Man Wang are literally museum pieces," the Times report said.

Continued the Times: "The new model worker stands 7-foot-6, wears baggy shorts to work and wields a deft hook shot. Instead of construction pits, he leaps into seas of autograph seekers and a custom-fitted BMW 745—the one with the back seat removed. What's more, he doesn't even work in China."

And what does the shy Yao think of all the fuss?

"Before, I thought model workers only recognized ordinary people who worked tirelessly and without asking for anything in return," the 24-year-old Yao was quoted by the Times through his agent. "Now the

Justine earns hard win

WARSAW—Former world No. 1 Justine Henin-Hardenne was tested by Venezuelan Maria Vento-Kabchi before earning a 6-3, 7-5 victory and a place in the quarterfinals of the WTA claycourt tournament here on Thursday.

Playing in dull and uncomfortably cool conditions, the Belgian found it difficult to establish her superiority over an experienced and competent opponent, who often hit the ball deep and struck some fine cross-court angles to keep Henin-Hardenne from settling into a rhythm.

Although Henin-Hardenne took a 4-1 lead in the first set, she rarely looked comfortable and struggled to find any consistency on the heavy clay surface.

Henin-Hardenne had the opportunity to consolidate winning the first set when she held a point to lead, 3-1, in the second, but Vento-Kabchi continued to trouble her with an aggressive baseline game and ability to come to net.

The unseeded Belgian had to wait until the 11th game and a break for 6-5 on her third break point to gain the upper hand, but Vento-Kabchi still held three break points to take the set to a tiebreak before an ace and a service winner clinched victory. *AFP*

Simmons bags awar

LOS ANGELES—Bobby Simmons of the Los Angeles Clippers was an easy winner of the NBA Most Improved Player award on Thursday, easily topping Miami All-Star Dwyane Wade and Detroit standout Tayshaun Prince despite playing on a losing team.

Simmons, who will be an unrestricted free agent after this season, is the first Clippers player to win the award that started following the 1985-86 season.

Simmons received 59 first-place and 384 points in voting by sports w and broadcasters. Wade got 15 first- votes and 129 points, and Prince h first-place votes and 107 points.

The 24-year-old averaged career of 16.4 points, 5.9 rebounds, 2.7 a 1.4 steals and 37.3 minutes in 75 gam year earlier, in his first season wit Clippers, he averaged 7.8 points, 4. bounds and 24.6 minutes in 56 gam

Hagedorn athletes rul

PUERTO PRINCESA City dominated for the third straight year the elementary and secondary divisions of the MIMAROPA (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) Regional Athletic Association.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn's athletes garnered 218 points at the end of the four-day meet's third edition—which Puerto Princesa hosted from April 24 to 27—to top the seven-delegation elementary division.

It was a similar story in the secondary competition as Puerto Princesa chalked up 247 points to run away with the overall title with eventual second-placer Palawan a hundred points down in second place.

Hagedorn, the pioneer in the promotion of sports-tourism in the country, was all praises for the all-out performance of the young athletes, trainers and coaches.

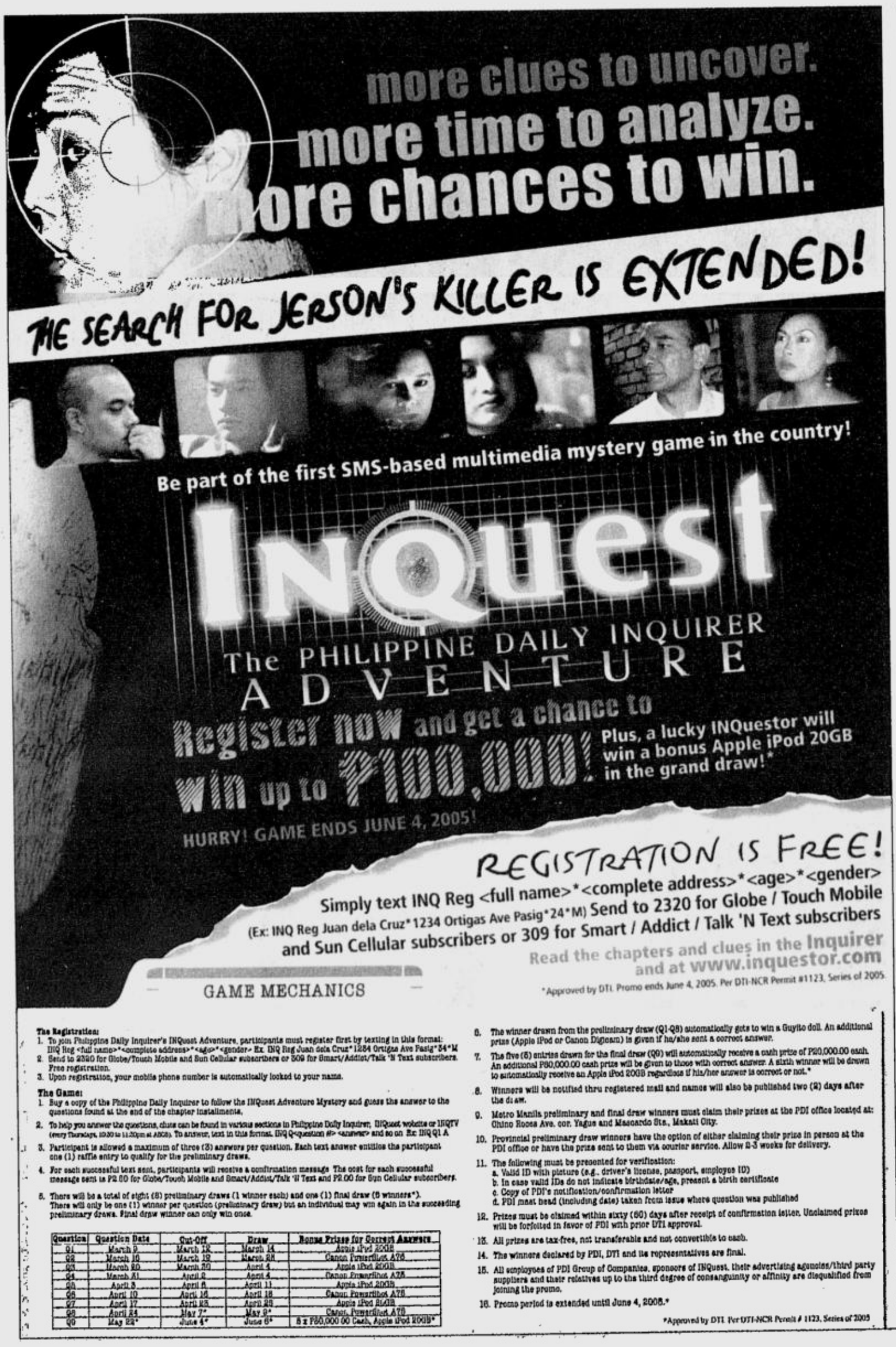
"The people of Puerto Princesa are proud of you all for giving our beloved city the honor and prestige it so richly des he told the delegation shortly after th clusion of the meet.

The third MIMAROPA Meet drew athletes coming from five province two cities (Puerto Princesa and Calap Region 4-B (Southern Tagalog B).

Oriental Mindoro was second in th mentary division with 187 points, foll by Palawan with 169 and Calapan with 104.

Oriental Mindoro, with 145 p wound up third in the secondary div while Calapan City was fourth with points.

Puerto Princesa took the gold med girls volleyball in both elementary an school divisions, and also ruled boxing *ak takraw* and swimming for boys secondary level and chess for boys i mentary.



GAME MECHANICS

The Registration:

1. To join Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQuest Adventure, participants must register first by texting in this format: INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender> Ex. INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig*24*M
2. Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Free registration.
3. Upon registration, your mobile phone number is automatically locked to your name.

The Game:

1. Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQuest Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
2. To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQuest website or INQTV (every Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30pm at ABC5). To answer, text in this format. INQ Q<question #> <answer> and so on Ex: INQ Q1 A
3. Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text answer entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draws.
4. For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.00 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
5. There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (8 winners*). There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding preliminary draws. Final draw winner can only win once.

Question	Question Date	Cut-Off	Draw	Bonus Prizes for Correct Answers
Q1	March 9	March 12	March 14	Apple iPod 20GB
Q2	March 10	March 19	March 28	Canon Powershot A75
Q3	March 20	March 30	April 4	Apple iPod 20GB
Q4	March 31	April 2	April 4	Canon Powerfhot A75
Q5	April 3	April 6	April 11	Apple iPod 20GB
Q6	April 10	April 16	April 18	Canon Powershot A75
Q7	April 17	April 23	April 25	Apple iPod 20GB
Q8	April 24	May 7*	May 9*	Canon Powershot A75
Q9	May 22*	June 4*	June 6*	8 x P50,000.00 Cash, Apple iPod 20GB*

6. The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a Guyito doll. An additional prize (Apple iPod or Canon Digicam) is given if he/she sent a correct answer.
7. The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of P20,000.00 each. An additional P50,000.00 cash prize will be given to those with correct answer. A sixth winner will be drawn to automatically receive an Apple iPod 20GB regardless if his/her answer is correct or not.*
8. Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
9. Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at: Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
10. Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
11. The following must be presented for verification:
    a. Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
    b. In case valid IDs do not indicate birthdate/age, present a birth certificate
    c. Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
    d. PDI mast head (including date) taken from issue where question was published
12. Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
13. All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
14. The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
15. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQuest, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
16. Promo period is extended until June 4, 2005.*

*Approved by DTI. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1123, Series of 2005

THE MANILA Dragons Dragon Boat Rowing Team will see action in the First Philippine International Dragonboat competition from May 5 to 8 in Boracay, Aklan. The team is backed by Negros Navigation (Nenaco), a pioneer and lea in Filipino inter-island shipping, and PHILTOWN properties, a real estate company with development projects in Juan McKinley, Fairways Tower, Metropolitan Tower across Rockwell. The Manila Dragons is inviting other possible partners as it prepares for the dragon boat season this coming June 2 For inquiries, please e-mail mla-dragons@yahoo.com or call Greg Doronila, MDDRT Liason officer, at 0922-8109457.

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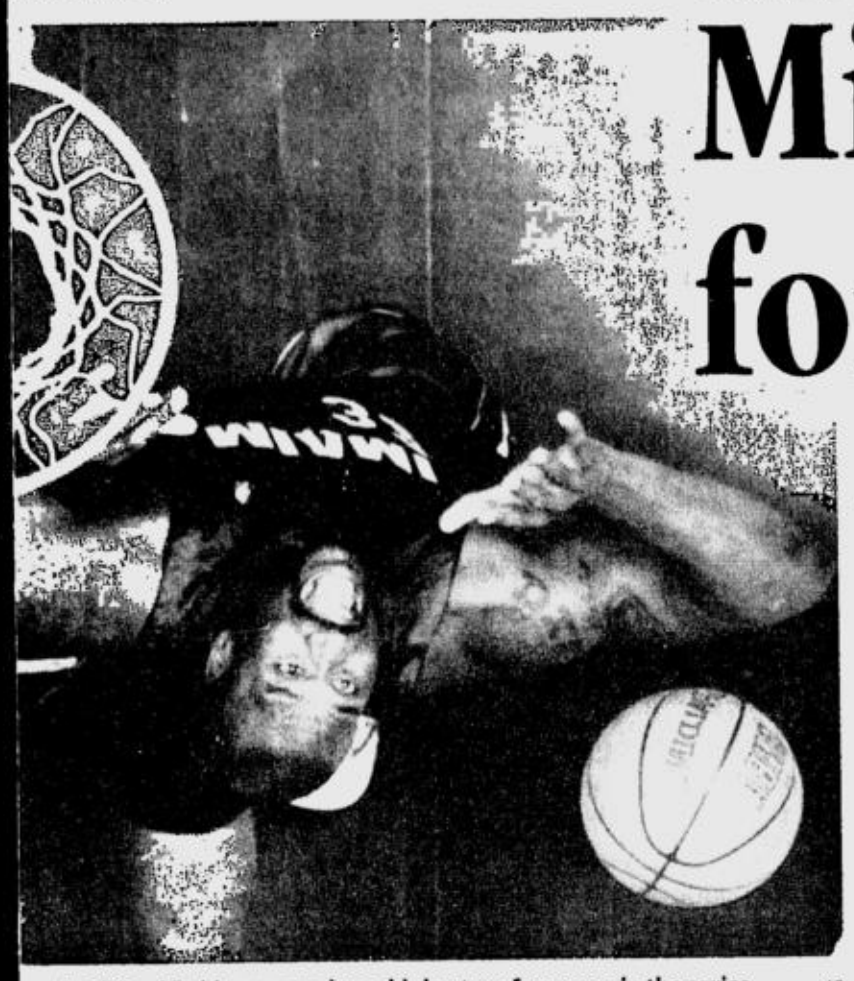

sey's Clifford Robinson, produces his best performance in the series. AP

Miami too hot for New Jersey

Miller helps Pacers rip Celtics

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—One of the luckiest bounces of Vince Carter's career—five or six bounces, actually—couldn't keep the New Jersey Nets from falling behind 3-0 to the Miami Heat.

Carter forced double overtime with a shot that danced all around the backboard and rim before dropping through, but there was no more magic for the Nets after that in a 108-105 double-overtime loss to the Heat on Thursday night.

"Man, this team is very resilient," said Heat center Alonzo Mourning, who grabbed a key rebound late in the second overtime. "This just shows the toughness and character of this team in digging out a win like this."

Now, the problem confronting New Jersey is one that no NBA team has ever solved—overcoming a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series.

Miami can complete a sweep Sunday.

Shaquille O'Neal had his best game of the series with 25 points, Udonis Haslem had the final go-ahead basket among his 14 points and 19 rebounds, Dwyane Wade had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Eddie Jones added 20 points for the Heat.

Carter scored 36, Richard Jefferson had 23 and Jason Kidd had a triple-double of 16 points, 13 assists and 16 rebounds for the Nets, whose best chance to win came at the end of regulation when Kidd had an open shot from 3-point range.

But he couldn't connect, and Carter's crazy bounce only ended up prolonging the Nets' plight for another five minutes.

"I thought once it hit every piece of the rim and fell in, we had another opportunity, and anytime you have an opportunity like that against a team like Miami you have to take advantage of it," Kidd said.

Pacers 99, Celtics 76

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller scored 33 points, including 15 in the fourth quarter, and Indiana pulled away for a 2-1 lead in the series. Game 4 will be here Saturday night, and the series will return to Boston on Tuesday.

Boston coach Doc Rivers said earlier this week that Miller may be getting "sympathy calls" from the officials as he makes his final NBA tour before retiring.

The 39-year-old Pacers star had his usual flops, trying to draw fouls as he went up for shots, but it wasn't his theatrics or the officials' kindly treatment that doomed the Celtics.

Miller hit his first two shots, a big 3-pointer that put Indiana in control in the first quarter and another 3-pointer during a 17-3 run that broke the game open with less than six minutes to go.

Jermaine O'Neal, playing with a sore right shoulder and taking a pounding inside almost the whole game, had 21 points, 11 rebounds and three blocked shots. Paul Pierce led Boston with 19 points, Gary Payton finished with 15 and Antoine Walker added 14.

Mavericks 106, Rockets 102

In Houston, a rejuvenated Dirk Nowitzki emerged from a two-game slump to score 28 points and keyed a 17-0 run in the fourth quarter to lead Dallas past Houston and into the first-round series.

Michael Finley scored 20 points, Jerry Stackhouse added 18 and Josh Howard had five big points in the late comeback, ending Houston's nine-game win streak and finally giving the Mavericks confidence that they can keep up with the surging Rockets.

Dallas has a chance to even the Western Conference series in Game 4 Saturday night. Game 5 is in Dallas on Monday night.

Tracy McGrady had another stellar performance for the Rockets, finishing with 28 points, nine rebounds and six assists, while Bob Sura added 21 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. *AP*

MILLER: Sympathy calls? REUTERS

w Chinese worker

award also includes someone like me, a special kind of migrant worker. That's a sign of progress."

The Times report said the choice of Ming and some of China's new entrepreneurs for the proletariat hall of fame bugged the old guards no end.

According to the Times the die-hard Communists think that what Yao does as an NBA star is impossible for the ordinary people to imitate.

But the municipal government Shanghai, Yao's hometown argued that its native son was "the slam-dunk symbol of a new China."

As a condition for joining the NBA, Yao is required to give half of his almost $18-million salary for four years to Chinese sports authorities.

And whenever the Chinese national basketball team needs his services, he flies back to China from Houston and does as he is told.

YAO: Special migrant worker REUTERS

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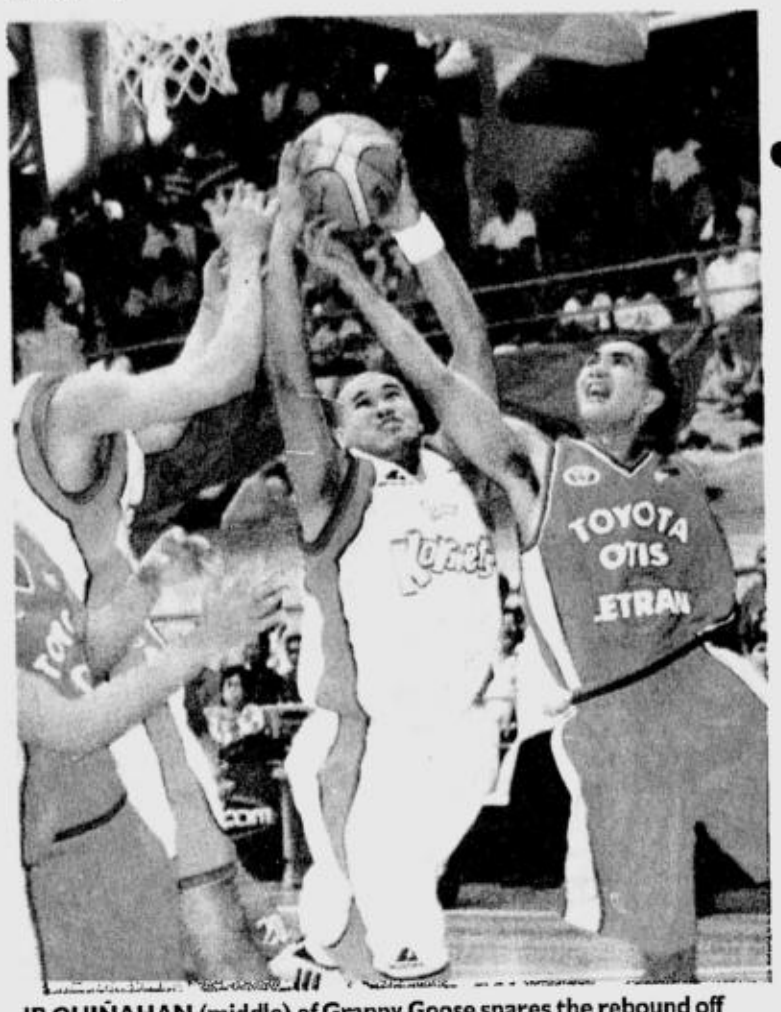
Jewels eye 7-0 start



JR QUIÑAHAN (middle) of Granny Goose snares the rebound off Emerson Oreta (right) and another Toyota Otis player. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Games Today (*JCSGO Gym, Cubao*)
2 p.m.—Bacchus Energy vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Montaña Pawnshop vs Granny Goose

IF THERE'S any team to be envied right now, it's Montaña Pawnshop.

Not only are the Jewels riding the wave of a six-game winning streak but the task of stretching what is the 2005 PBL Unity Cup's longest run will go through a slumping Granny Goose squad today at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Not that the Snackmasters are easy prey. But against a team that has fueled its red-hot run with its vast array of tools, Granny Goose will need to get more from its regulars to slow the Jewels bid for a seventh straight victory.

The Jewels are actually shooting for their eight straight victory since winning the Open Championship two months back—their first crown since joining the league in 1998.

Clashing in the first game at 2 p.m. are Harbour Centre and Bacchus Energy with the Port Masters out to get back on the winning track following their stinging 78-81 loss to Welcoat Paints two days ago.

Meanwhile, spitfire Ronjay Enrile of Toyota Otis-Letran was added yesterday to the national aspirants pool for the SEABA. Enrile's inclusion brought the number of PBL players to the national aspirants pool to 15.

The Jewels sport a 6-0 card followed by Welcoat (5-1) and Harbour (4-2).

Iligan debuts in Panasonic-NBC today

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Expansion team Iligan makes its debut in the Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship today when the Crusaders battle the Cagayan de Oro Stars in the south conference opener at the Xavier University gym here.

The Stars, who always draw big crowds in their homecourt, are expected to have their hands full against Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders in the 6 p.m. contest.

PBA veteran Dong Polistico of the Stars and former Adamson University slotman Mark Kong of the Crusaders will both make their first appearance in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Accel, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Cebuana Lhuillier, Prime Channel, Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Other players to watch are cat-quick All-Star guard Julius Navales, Andrew Neri, Jerome Numeran and Jayson Alfeche of former Misuari Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin's Stars and Joseph Roque, Sammy Ayodelle, Gerry Cavan and Joshua Reyes of the Crusaders.

Veteran coach Arlene Rodriguez will handle the Stars while Billy Reyes, former player and brother of national mentor Chot Reyes, will call the shots for the Crusaders.

Action shifts to Valencia gym in Bukidnon tomorrow with another expansion team, the Valencia Golden Harvest, playing host to last year's south runnerup Ozamiz Colta at 6 p.m.

The country's premier regional basketball league opened last week at the Cuneta Astrodome with Anjo Yllana's Parañaque Jets coming from behind to nip the Laguna Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro.

Ateneo ABS-Snickers cage clinic ongoing

SHARING the effective ways towards basketball success, Ateneo Basketball School is currently conducting its 2005 ABS-Snickers summer modules for boys and girls aged 6-16 at the ADMU Grade School Covered Courts Monday to Saturday 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Backed by seven years of experience, the summer module was participated in by huge numbers of students last March 28 and there are still more students joining the registration that will end on May 21.

The weekly basketball clinic will be available for the following age group levels: 5-9 years old, 10-11 years old, 12-13 years old and 14-15 years old.

The Ateneo Basketball School, led by ex PBL coach Ricky Dandan and Ateneo Lady Eagles coach John Flores, are also handled by various certified collegiate coaches like ex NU head Coach Rico Perez.

For beginners, the students will start basically on proper ball handling, dribbling, layups and undertake various drills to improve their agility and coordination in the first stage. Second stage is all about passing, jump shots and advanced dribbling.

Students with advanced skills will be placed on a team camp where team training is the major concern. ABS will teach the basic offensive and defensive systems, from one-on-one to three-on-three.

For reservation and inquiries, call 4266001 local 4192 or 4265955.

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HOOPS teaches Korean shooting

GROWEE HOOPS School will be introducing Korean Basketball Shooting Program and the European Basketball Training Modules to its advance students in its clinics to be staged at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall beginning Saturday, May 7 at 1 p.m.

The clinic is a fitting follow-up to the successful introduction of the 5-Star US Basketball Training Program in the Philippines conducted by HOOPS coach Patrick Desiderio, a two-year basketball instructor at the 5-Star Basketball Camps in Yonkers, New York.

Entry fee in this clinic sponsored by Pediatrica Inc., makers of Growee Vitamin Syrup, and co-sponsored by Accel, Spalding, Mossimo and Home Radio is only P1,500. Enrollees get to bring home free a basketball, Mossimo playing shirt, Growee Vitamins, knapsack bag, Squirt bottle and many others.

Interested students may enroll at the HOOPS Booth inside the Sta, Lucia East Grand mall until May 6 or at the HOOPS Offices at Unit 912 and 904, City & Land Megaplaza Bldg., ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or call 687-4364, 687-0167 and 6872025 (telefax).

SPORTSWATCH

MCC active chess tourney

THE MAY edition of the MCC unrated active chess tourney gets underway at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the 4F of J&F Divino Bldg., at 967 Aurora Blvd. near LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. The one-day event offers a total pot of P10,000 with the champion getting the top prize of P3,000. Open to amateurs, beginners, unrated and rated players whose ratings are not over 1850 and standard ratings not over 2000, the tournament will apply the seven-round Swiss and time control of 25 minutes per player. Registration is now open at the venue. For details, call 435-8412, 826-8560 or 0916-852-1069 and 0922 539 7392.

Muntinlupa Violet streaks to 6th win.

MUNTINLUPA Violet fortified its hold of group top spot by whipping Muntinlupa Black, 71-55, last weekend in the First Global Destiny Basketball league eliminations at the Greenheights court in Muntinlupa City. The Violet basketeers chalked up their sixth straight victory while sending the Black team to its second loss in four outings in the tournament backed by Solid Video Corp., Sony Philippines and My Destiny Cable Internet. Quezon City Brown also raised its win-loss record to 6-0 with a 105-80 rout of Quezon City Black (2-3). Mandaluyong Red also posted its sixth straight win by routing Mandaluyong Violet, 88-64.

New Balance running clinic tomorrow

THE NEW Balance Power Race running clinic continues tomorrow at the Rockwell Plaza in Makati City. The clinic starts at 6:30 a.m. in front of the PHINMA Bldg. with running groups expected to attend as tuneup to the final clinic to be held at the Glorietta activity center where clinic participants will be treated to a fun-filled day of sporting challenges. This Sunday's lecturer is Renato Unso, professor and head coach of Polytechnic University of the Philippines. He is also the SEA Games record holder for the 400-meter hurdles from 1983-1991. Registration for the New Balance Power Race on May 29 will also be accepted in the clinic venue. Singlets will be issued upon registration. Registration fees are: P150 for the 4K, 5K, and 10K events; while registration fee for the 25K centerpiece event is P250.

Prince Tennis Camp second batch

THE FIRST batch of the 2005 Prince Summer Tennis Camp for juniors and adults has kicked off on April 5 and will run until today at the Rizal Sports Complex in Pasig City. The second batch scheduled May 3 to 28 will be held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 4-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Camp fee of P3,500 includes a brand new Prince tennis racket and T-shirt. Jimmy Cura, a certified teaching professional from the USPTR will be in charge of the camp which is sanctioned by Romeo Magat of Asian Sports Management, Inc. and sponsored by Sports Resources, Inc., distributor of Prince rackets in the Philippines. For details, call coach Jimmy or Tei at 631-0237, 631-6234 and 0919-8048426.

Registration for RP Open golf on

A 54-HOLE qualifying tournament for the 89th Philippine Open set May 19-22 at Club Malarayat in Lipa City, Batangas, will be held next week at Villamor Golf Club. Registration is ongoing at Villamor with deadline set noon tomorrow. The qualifying is set on May 3-5. Entry fee is P2,500 which also entitles registrants to the official free practice round on May 2. For details, contact the NGAP office at 5256987/5245160 or the Villamor Golf Club at 8534987 to 92. Visit NGAP website at www.ngap.net.

MICABA CHAMP: Adamson University, under its new head coach Mel Alas, pulled off an 81-80 overtime win recently over Letran and captured the 20th Micaba UAAP-NCAA men's basketball title at the Tanduay Gym in Quiapo, Manila.

Las Piñas cocker sizzles

EXCITING fights can be expected tonight at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum when the special 3-cock derby gets going at 7 p.m. Derby sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. At stake is P300,000 while entry fee is pegged at P5,500, said derby hosts Jerome and Alex Braza. Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. For details, contact 873– 1040 and 874–3910 (look for Gerry or Julius). Another 3-cock event sizzles on May 7 with JR Pasay and Allan Vetsin as hosts. Meanwhile, Pepito Ngo's Fatman Miko entry topped the GCAP 7–Cock Derby last Wednesday after posting a perfect score of seven points. Rudy Albano's Mulawin A was runner-up finisher with 5.5 points. The next GCAP is scheduled on May 16 and 18.

Game Ka Na Ba derby unfolds

THE FIRST batch of 103 cockers and breeders from different provinces will compete in the opening round of "Game Ka Na Ba 5–Cock Derby" starting at 3 p.m. today at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Participants are aiming to score two straight victories in today's 2-cock elimination round to qualify for the championship round on May 6. Other elimination schedules will be on May 2 and 4. Expected to be among the frontrunners are the entries of Wewe Burgos of Batangas and Jeric Junio of Bulacan who topped the Roligon Anniversary derby recently, as well former World Slasher champions Rey Briones and William Go, Filcobra Cocker of the Year Col Tabique, Philip Chiongbian, Tos Reyes and 2005 Largahan champion Boni Gomez. Roligon owner Rolly Ligon said the guaranteed prize at stake is a whopping P2 million. An imported Isuzu Big Horn (4x4) will go to the fastest win champion. Those who will score two wins in the elimination round will share the P50,000 prize. For inquiries: 833–2275, 833–1638 and 852-9812.

Big NCA cockfest slated May 3 and 5

THE TOP guns of Philippine cockfighting clash anew on Tuesday and Thursday as the premiere National Cockers Association (NCA) presents another super 7-cock derby at the air–conditioned Araneta Coliseum. At least 35 sure entries are listed in this event to be hosted by Roger Buenaflor, Efren Canlas, Tony Marfori and Pepito Ngo. Submission of weights will be on Monday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta green gate. Call 911-3101 and 911–2928 for details (look for Gloria Avena). Meanwhile, another 7-cock event under the auspices of the NCA will held on May 10 and 12 with Boy Marzo, JV Magsaysay and Ruel Ricafort as hosts.

CAGE TITLISTS: Monolith Construction owner Mariano Seediet receives championship trophy from Boysen area manager Bobby Chua after his team bested a field of 9 from the construction industry to claim the Boysen Cup of the 2005 PCFBL-ACES Basketball Tournament.

Castañares risks title tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MANDAUE CITY—World Boxing Foundation junior welterweight champion Dindo Castañares makes a first defense of his world crown tonight against Australian Steven Marks at the Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Center.

The fast-fisted Castañares had won the crown with a fourth-round stoppage of Colombian Guillermo "Pantera" Mosquera last Dec. 14 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Yesterday, Castañares tipped the scales at an exact 140 lbs, while Marks came in at 139 lbs during the official weigh-in supervised by WBF president Mick Croucher at the famed ALA Gym in Cebu.

"This will be war. I came here to fight and win the crown. I know Castañares is a great fighter, but I have been sparring against middleweight Sam Soliman back in Melbourne, and I'm ready for the worst," said the Australian challenger.

Castañares refused to make any prediction, but said he too has been preparing hard and plans to throw big punches "starting from the first to the last round" if that's what it takes to retain his title.

Promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani, who is putting up the blockbuster event with the Mandaue City government headed by Mayor Teddy Ouano, also assured fight fans of an explosive fight pitting "two warriors who don't run."

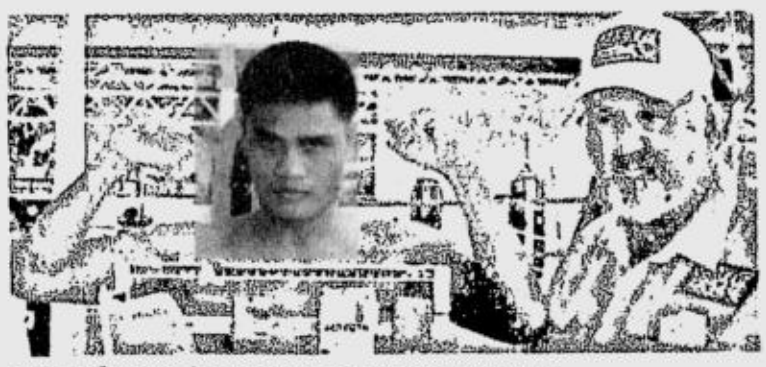
Earlier, WBF president Mick Croucher informed that, regardless of the outcome of the title fight, a promoter from Australia has already pledged to hold a rematch.

"We are putting up a giant screen outside the coliseum for those who may not be able to get tickets, and we have also put up additional lighting at the venue plus we will add more chairs for the ringside spectators," said Mandaue City Sports Development Commission chair Cheryl Ouano.

In the main supporting bout, WBA Pan African champ junior fly champ Bert Batawang takes on tough Roberto Rubillar in a 10-round non-title tiff. Batawang hopes a win tonight would give him a ticket to unify his title with PABA champ Vicky Tahumil of Indonesia.

In another tenner, Donnie "Ahas" Nietes takes on Elmer Muyco while Along Denoy clashes with Jun Eraham.

Rollen Del Castillo fights Eddie Villegas (8 rds); Robert Allanic of Cliff Smart Stable battles Rolando Baclayo (8 rds)and Jojo Entor tackles Gerope Mercado over four rounds.



CASTAÑARES and WBF president Mick Croucher

Pacquiao vs top cockers

CEBU derby. aficionados get to see how good Manny Pacquiao is outside the ring as a breeder when he pits his "Pacman" birds against the country's best in the P2.2 Million Mantawi Festival Celebration 5-Cock Derby on May 3 to 7 at the New Gallera De Mandaue.

Pacquiao, who was invited by promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud to pit his gamefowls against such luminaries as Boy Marzo, Sonny Lagon, Patrick Antonio, Nene Abello, said he was told by Salud to join the derby after gracing the "Kadaugan sa Mactan 3" event last April 27.

Pacquiao owns Sweater bloodlines, the most famous strain of fighting cocks in the country today, which he had acquired from friends and American breeders. ***Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor***

TM Go for Gold boxing meet goes to Mendez

THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) continues with its grassroots development program on wheels when the TM Go for Gold presents another 13-bout card in Mendez, Cavite, today.

To be hosted by Mendez Mayor Manuel Romera and sponsored by Touch Mobile and Pacific Heights, today's card will feature seven fights between the Tanuan, Leyte, and Mandaluyong squads starting at 6 p.m.

The card will also present six special bouts featuring members of the RP Ginebra Boxing team and two women's bout and will be aired on NBN 4 every Saturday at 7-8:30 p.m.

Tangling in the women's bout are pinweight Josie Gabuco of Palawan and Analiza Cruz of Mindoro and featherweights Alice Kate Appari of the University of Baguio and internationalist Annie Albania of South Cotabato.

Seeing action for the Leyte team are pinweight Damaso Oledan, light flyweight Val Perigrino, flyweight Joey Comeo, bantamweight Jay-R Elisiques, featherweight Bernie Talbo, lightweight Ariel Lagunsad and light welterweight Elias Diaz.

To don the Mandaluyong colors are Fernan Solas, Michael Galimba, Jun Ambrocio, Sandy Guarino, Lito Hapita, Leonardo Doronio and Constantino Quintal.

The RP Ginebra Team members seeing action are light flyweights Albert Pabila and Bill Vicera, flyweight Junel Cantancio and Franklin Albia featherweights Rolando Magbanua and Francis Cutamora and lightweights Genebert Basadre and Anthony Marcial.

One for the books

THEY woke up at the break of dawn. Left home when the sun was just about to pop out of the horizon. At dusk, they were done for the day. Home when most wives have hit the sack.

Willie Soong and Noel Escaler might have established a world record out there that day that no one, except maybe Loren Manguiat, could have given it a second look if only for its sheer oddity.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Some go for the moon. Others for Mars. Still others for the tiniest of crawlers in Galapagos Islands.

Willie and Noel did none of the above.

They went for the eerie? Like dig up bones at North Cemetery maybe?

Nah.

They went for the bizarre? Like hunt python eggs in the thick foliage and hills off Manleluag in Mangatarem, Pangasinan?

Nah.

They went for the impossible? Like climb Pareng Gob Piñol's Mt. Apo barefoot?

Nah.

They played 90 holes in one day. Anybody not giving a hoot, though, doesn't know what an astonishing feat it is.

No, it was 90 holes in 12 hours. Almost.

Nobody plays golf the whole day through, not even in this day when big phones in the living rooms have become almost extinct like dinosaurs.

What Willie and Noel did could be a first in the Philippines, if not in the universe.

"We merely wanted to have fun," said Willie Soong, Mr. Jaguar himself for being president and COO of Jaguar Philippines. "But many of our friends now want Noel and I to submit our scorecards to Golf Digest for authentication. They also say a Guinness record might have been established."

Like most golfers not playing in the Asian, PGA and European Tours, Willie and Noel also wagered bets when they played their five rounds at the 6,706-yard The Country Club, one of the nation's most exclusive clubs found in Canlubang, Laguna, that boasts of no more than 400 members in its fold.

To sustain their enthusiasm, if not thrill, in finishing 90 holes from twilight till dusk, Willie and Noel had placed bets of P9,000 per round (18 holes) and P5,000 as bonus for the winner for a total of P50,000.

Taking into account the exhaustion factor, Willie and Noel employed four caddies. A marker was with them all throughout the marathon golf of five rounds from 6:40 in the morning till 6:26 in the evening.

The club's caddie-master and Mike Carr, the club manager, stood as witnesses to the historic first that when it was over, Willie and Noel had covered a total of 33,530 yards of prime land.

The longest break was 15 minutes, the shortest one minute.

"Call us crazy, but as I said, we wanted to have fun," said Willie, whose Jaguar Invitational has become an annual thrill to many of his golfing buddies.

Their first round of 18 was played from 6:40 a.m. to 8:48 a.m. Noel, a 16-handicapper, shot 47-45=92 to the 48-45=93 of Willie, a 25-handicapper.

Second round: 8:50 a.m. to 10:41 a.m.; Noel 44-45=89, Willie 49-47=96.

Third round: 10:49 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Noel 46-44=90, Willie 52-51=103.

Fourth round: 1:45 p.m. to 4:23 p.m.; Noel 49-47=96, Willie 43-49=92

Fifth round: 4:24 p.m. to 6:26 p.m.; Noel 43-54=97, Willie 46-55=101.

Because Willie is in his 60s and Noel in his 50s, they rode a golf cart. Had they not done so anyway, they might not have finished 90 holes.

Some eat cockroaches and some walk on coals to try to prove something.

Willie and Noel, an investment banker, played 90 holes, never stopping for meals or snacks. Just fruits and chips aboard the golf cart and fluids sans soft drinks.

Willie and Noel had swung a golf club on April 20, 2005, a combined total of 949. Willie had made 485 strokes, Noel 464.

I wonder if their respective arms were still firmly attached to their respective shoulders by the time they got home to their respective loved ones that night.

Even the best pitcher of all time was not allowed to finish an entire World Series game or he would have injured his shoulder permanently.

Some climb mountains, others circumnavigate the world using a bicycle.

For Willie and Noel, their idea of a thrill is play golf the whole day.

The one who said golf is a crazy game that sane people play is crazy?

You bet.

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

Bata, Django hurdle foes

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—Efren "Bata" Reyes scored a cold-blooded rout of his Taiwanese foe while Francisco "Django" Bustamante blasted out another Taiwanese as the sensational RP duo opened their bid in the third leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour yesterday.

Reyes, the reigning back-to-back overall champion, opened his campaign for a sixth leg title with a 9-2 drubbing of Wang Hung-Hsiang of Taiwan.

The 50-year-old Reyes, who shared top spot in this year's Order of Merit with compatriot Gandy Valle, raced to a 7-0 lead before his game but overmatched foe could chalk one on his score sheet.

Valle, the Singapore leg winner, however, absorbed a 9-4 beating from Japanese heavyweight Satoshi Kawabata and was unceremoniously booted out of the event organized by ESPN STAR Sports.

Reyes will next face Ibrahim Bin Amir of Malaysia, a 9-3 winner over Wanshana Poomjaeng of Thailand.

"Maganda ang tumbok ko ngayon at saka kinalaban ng bola 'yung kalaban ko (My pocketing is good and the breaks went against my opponent ," said Reyes, who received a special souvenir symbolizing the key to this port city from Kaohsiung secretary-general Chen Chi Mai during the press conference Thursday.

While Reyes had the strongest start in the opening round, Bustamante provided the most sensational finish.

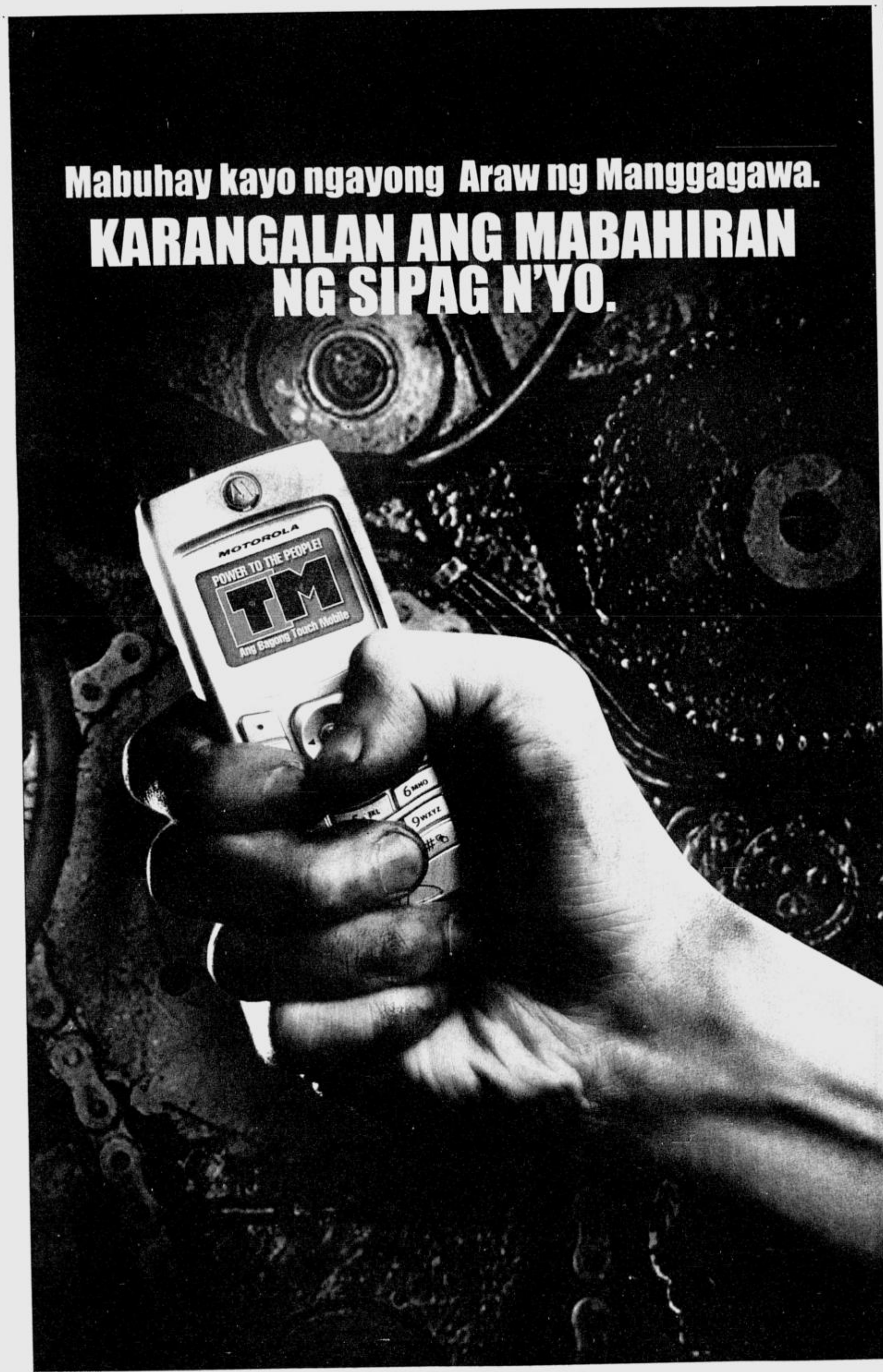
The former world No. 1 took the last seven racks to dispatch another home bet Kuo Po-Cheng, 9-2, and forge a second-round duel with one-time tormentor Alok Kumar of India, a 9-4 winner over Filipino qualifier Leonardo "Dodong" Andam.

Bustamante clustered three rack winners to take a 5-2 lead before the five-minute break.

Kuo was no longer in his elements after the lull as Bustamante won two more frames for a commanding 7-2 spread.

The matches pitting Filipino qualifiers Ronnie Alcano and Christopher Bombita against Nguyen Thanh Nam of Vietnam and Yudarman Kamarudin of Indonesia were ongoing at press time.

BATA: Ready to defend his title.



Iloilo hosts new Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PALARONG Pambansa will be revived with a lean calendar solely under the reins of the Department of Education on May 8-14 in Iloilo City.

The DepEd, which used to stage the annual sportsfest among elementary and high school students until it was transferred to the Philippine Sports Commission, yesterday expressed confidence it could pull off this year's Palaro despite short preparations.

For its comeback this year, the Palaro will only have 15 events for high school and 12 events for elementary, according to DepEd national coordinator on school sports Len Toledo during the weekly Scoop sa Kamayan.

Archery, basketball, football, athletics, softball, swimming, chess, table tennis, taekwondo, lawn tennis, gymnastics, baseball, badminton, volleyball and sepak takraw will be on tap for the high school students, while baseball athletics, football, chess, badminton, gymnastics, lawn tennis, sepak tekraw, table tennis, takewondo, volleyball and swimming will be held in the elementary division.

Toledo said arnis, which is making a debut in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, will be held as a demonstration sport depending on the number of entries.

Since 1998, the PSC took charge of holding the Palaro, which went uninterrupted until last year when it was shelved to focus the agency's spending for the Athens Olympics campaign.

The last time it was held was in 2003 in Tubod, Lanao del Norte where more than 5,000 athletes saw action in the 16 sports disciplines played in both divisions.

But the DepEd re-assumed organizing the event following a Memorandum of Agreement forged between PSC officer in charge Butch Ramirez and DepEd Sec. Butch Abad last April 19.

Iloilo last hosted the Palaro in 1991, the same year the country staged the SEA Games.

Pagcor has released P20 million to help defray the cost of the Palaro revival.

Beach volley set in Boracay

PARTICIPANTS and guests will be treated to four days of games and fun when the Nestea Beach Volleyball unfurls May 5-7 at the scenic Boracay Beach in Caticlan, Aklan.

Bun Estavillo, Nestea events specialist, promised yesterday as she disclosed that aside from the usual beach volley action, competitors and the event's guests will be regaled with days and nights of entertainment featuring the country's finest performers.

"The main dish of the affair will still be the games featuring the best 24 teams in the land, 12 in the men's division and 12 in the women's side which will fight it out in the semifinal round in the first two days of competitions," Estavillo announced during the SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session where she guested.

Those which made it from Luzon are College of St. Benilde, Adamson University, Far Eastern University and St. Francis College in the men's class, and Philippine Christian University, College of St. Benilde, FEU and University of the Philippines Baguio in the distaff side.

Representing the Visayas are University of Southern Philippines, University of San Carlos, University of Negros Occidenal-Recoletos and reigning men's titlist University of San Jose-Recoletos, and University of the Visayas, USJ-R, Foundation University and defending women's champion Southwestern U.

Carrying the Mindanao colors are University of Mindanao-Tagum, Mindanao State University-Tawi Tawi, University of Mindanao-Davao and Ateneo de Davao in the men's level, and Holy Cross of Davao College, MSU-Tawi Tawi, UM-Tagum and UM-Davao.

Championship games are slated May 7.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY special

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Asian filmmakers in world cinema

By Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW millennium is billed as the start of the "Asian Century" in world cinema. Filmmakers from the region like Nonzee Nimibutr, Wong Kar Wai, Beat Takeshi and Kim Ki Duk are making their mark in international movies. Many more are expected to follow suit, as Asian films assume a position of importance quite in keeping with the region's dominance in business, technology and other key areas of world affairs.

But, it would be very incorrect to believe that it's only now that Asian filmmakers are making their mark internationally. As early as 1937, Ma-Xu Weibang's "Midnight Song" (Ye Bang Ge Sheng) was hailed as one of the most inspired film adaptations of Gaston Leroux's novel, "The Phantom of the Opera."

Sequel

The Chinese filmmaker's version was praised for making the Phantom a sympathetic and benevolent protagonist. The film was so popular and acclaimed that Ma-Xu made a sequel, "Midnight Song."

In 1939, Kenji Mizoguchi's "The Story of the Late Chrysanthemum" (Zangiku Monogatari) was lauded for its "dazzling elegance, formal rigor and powerful attack on the social structures that impose the role of sacrificial victim on women."

Fei Mu's "Spring in a Small Town" (Xiao Cheng Zhi Chun) is a moving postwar drama that has received worldwide recognition and is credited for influencing Wong Kar-Wai's "In the Mood for Love."

The '50s brought the world Akira Kurosawa's seminal psychological film, "Rashomon," about a crime seen from the markedly different perspectives of the other people involved. It won for Kurosawa an honorary Oscar award.

Different kind

In 1952, Kurosawa followed up with "Ikiru," a very different kind of film that also impressed viewers and critics worldwide.

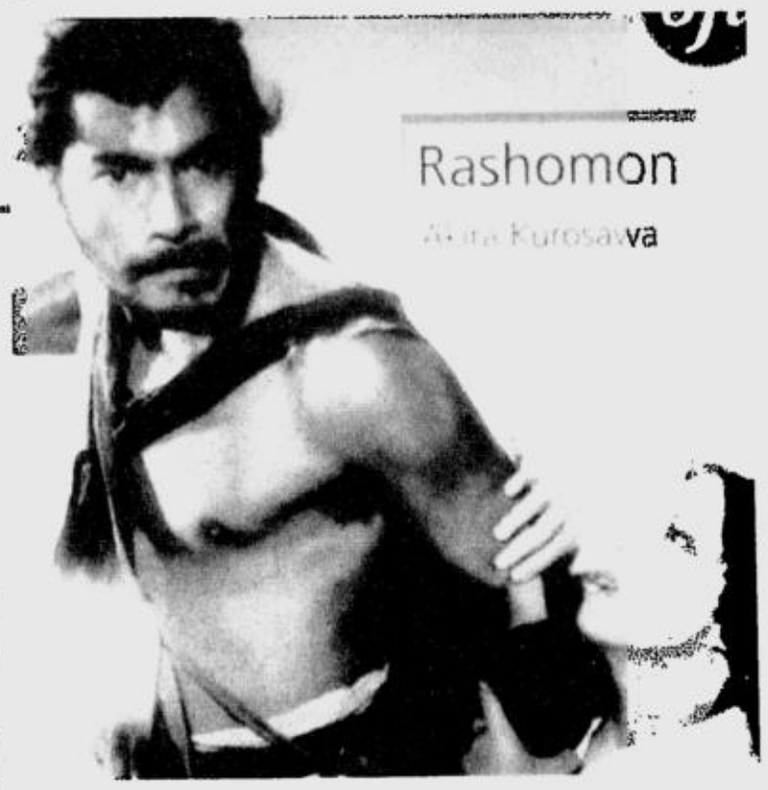
Its story about an "ordinary" man who revamps his priorities in life after he learns that he has cancer moved and inspired many people, and won for its director a special prize at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Yasujiro Ozu's "Tokyo Story" (1953) introduced global audiences to another Japanese film master's unique cinematic vision, characterized by a static camera positioned a couple of feet off the ground. It was felt that this rigorous visual style underscored the mood of becalmed acceptance that the film sought to communicate.

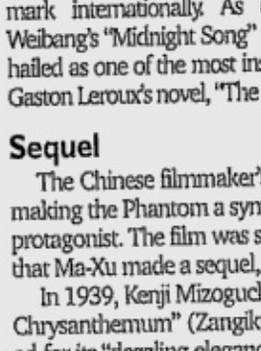
Distinctive voice

In 1955, another distinctive Asian voice was heard in the world of cinema, as Satyajit Ray unveiled his first feature, "Pather Panchali," about a little boy whose life is a series of small joys and great tragedies.

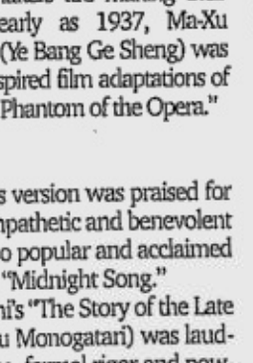
Ken Ichikawa's "The Burmese Harp" (1956) is an elegy for lost innocence. An epilogue to the Second World War and all its horrors, the film has its protagonist, garbed as a Buddhist monk, burying the war dead strewn across Southeast Asia.



"RASHOMON." Kurosawa's seminal psychological film captured movie enthusiasts' imagination.



TIMBERLAKE. Portrays Elton John—in upcoming movie.



AFFLECK. Dons the Man of Steel's cape in TV special.

Affleck, Timberlake in biopics

FROM Jeremy Gemilga: "I enjoyed the recent spate of biopics on the big screen. Whose film bio do we see next?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Indeed, real life is stranger than fiction, Jeremy. And it gets even more compelling when it's recreated on film. In Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator," we got that overblown, bigger-than-life feel as we watched Leo DiCaprio attempt to capture the legendary filmmaker's tortured mind and spirit onscreen.

It wasn't any less engaging when Jamie Foxx brought Ray Charles back to life in his Oscar-winning turn as "Ray." Other recent bio flicks had Samuel Jackson in "Coach Carter," Kevin Kline as Cole Porter in "De-Lovely," and Kevin Spacey as Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea" playing real-life characters.

Heartthrob

Pop heartthrob Justin Timberlake is set to star in the upcoming Elton John biopic. The former boy band vocalist, however, almost dropped out of the $39-million project when he read the script. Was the story too racy for Justin's taste? Or, too flamboyant?

Nah. What actually turned him off was the taming of the script. In a magazine interview, he complained: "All the wild stuff had been taken out!" He insisted that the "sex and drugs" bit be brought back to the story to put substance—and commercial appeal—to the highly anticipated feature film. So, a massive rewrite is currently in the works!

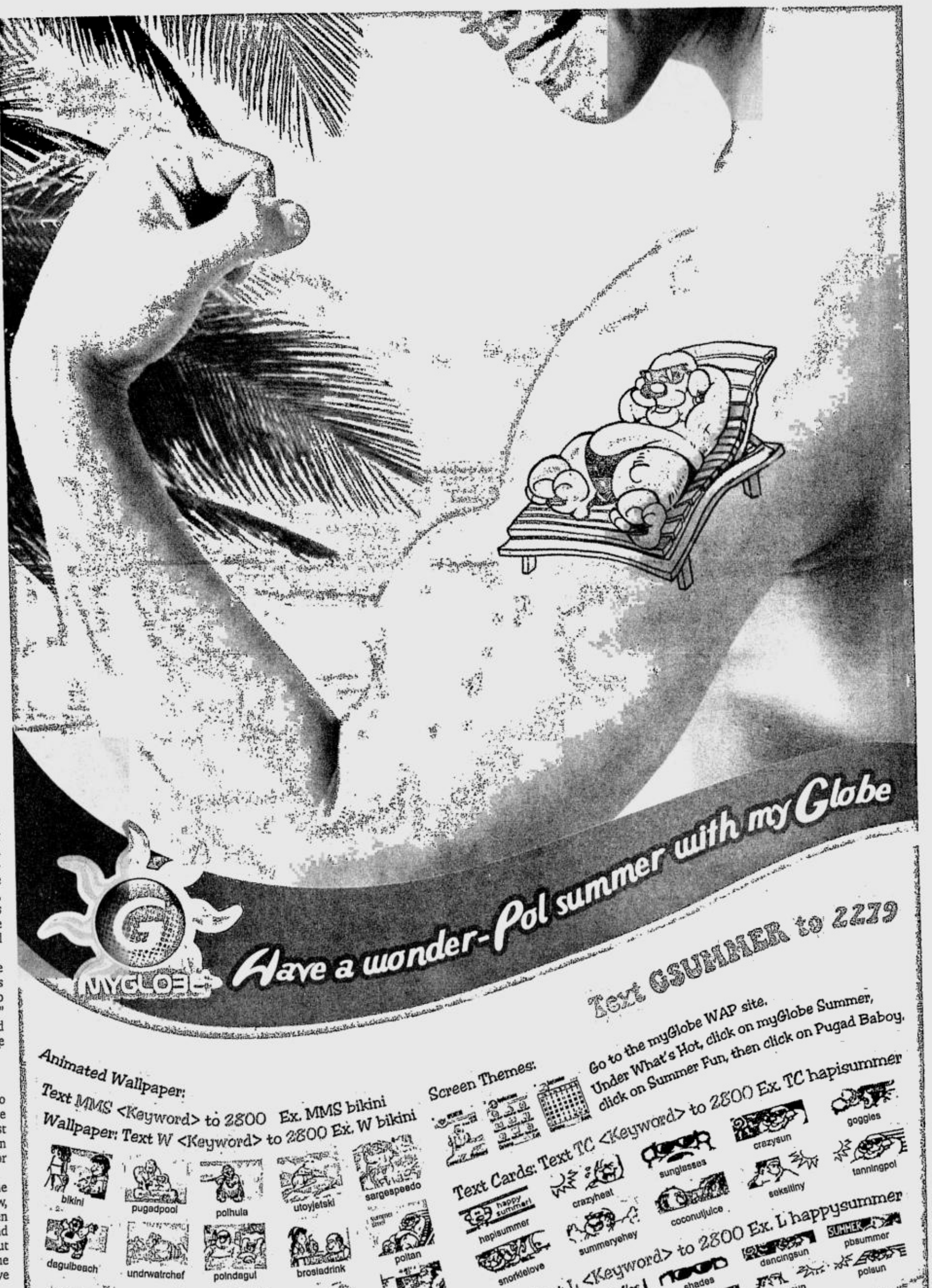
Another music legend gets his cinematic due in James Mangold's "Walk the Line," which chronicles the life of country music stalwart, Johnny Cash, portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix, from his early days as a blue-collar farmhand on an Arkansas cotton plantation, to his meteoric rise to fame. Reese Witherspoon co-stars as June Carter.

Blonde bombshell

After Gwen Stefani and Kate Beckinsale played Jean Harlow and Ava Gardner, respectively, in "The Aviator," it's Oscar winner Charlize Theron's turn to play a real-life blonde bombshell—Britt Ekland—in Stephen Hopkin's "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers."

Geoffrey Rush portrays Peter Sellers, while Sonia Aquino and Stanley Tucci play Sophia

AFFLECK/ A2-2



Lessons and laughter in 'Guess Who?' remake

By Noelani Torre

KUTCHER AND MAC. Lead cast of Kevin Sullivan's comedy.

"GUESS Who?" is a remake of the classic film, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?," which starred Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy in what would be Tracy's last movie. In the original film, released in 1967, Hepburn and Tracy played a liberal white couple who taught their daughter, played by Hepburn's niece, Katherine Houghton, that all people are equal, regardless of the color of their skin. It thus challenges their professed beliefs when their daughter brings home a black man (played by Sidney Poitier) to dinner.

It's the other way around in "Guess Who?" Bernie Mac plays an over-controlling father, Percy Jones, who has his daughter Theresa's boyfriend (Ashton Kutcher) investigated even before meeting him.

Rocky start

The weekend gets off to a rocky start, with the father mistaking the couple's cocky cab driver for the boyfriend. Things do not improve when he catches Kutcher's character, Simon Green, cavorting around in his daughter's bedroom in her negligee.

The movie is full of funny scenes, so if it's laughter you're looking for, you won't be disappointed. Bernie Mac gives a good performance as the pressured father and husband, although his performance often borders on slapstick.

Kutcher makes a worthy attempt at playing the sensitive, misjudged boyfriend, and manages to carry it off for most of the film. He is best, though, when playing comic scenes with co-star Bernie Mac, and his performance in a Black joke-telling scene at the dinner table is one of the movie's highlights.

Zoe Saldana does an excellent job playing Theresa. She imbues her character with just the right amount of patience, understanding, diplomacy, exasperation and, finally, anger at both Mac's and Kutcher's characters.

Judith Scott also gave an appealing performance as Theresa's mother and Percy's wife. She gives as good as she gets, and the debates between husband and wife are some of the high points of the movie.

Speech

We especially love the part where she makes her husband sweat and make a speech (whose lines were mostly stolen from Simon) in front of her female friends before she decides to forgive him on the eve of their anniversary party.

In the end, in a classic turnaround, it is Percy who finally gives Simon the pep talk that he needs to work up his courage to make a final try for his girl. The movie ends quite happily at the long-awaited anniversary party.

Although the movie makes us laugh at some parts and empathize during others, it could have done a lot more than simply that.

Tension

For one thing, the tension caused by the couple being from different races could have been more intense—and thus make the final acceptance of Simon by Theresa's family more hard-won. But overall, the movie delivers on what it promises, which is to show, in the funniest way possible, how a boyfriend overcomes his soon to be father-in-law's disapproval.

Affleck, Timberlake in biopics

From page A2-1

Loren and Stanley Kubrick, respectively.

Book

Philip Seymour Hoffman ("Happiness") plays "Breakfast at Tiffany's" novelist, Truman Capote, opposite Craig Archibald as writer Christopher Isherwood (on whose book, "Berlin Stories," "Cabaret" was based), in Bennett Miller's upcoming "Capote." Gerard Butler waxes poetic as English poet Robert Burns in Vadim Jean's "Burns."

Recently, Derek Jacobi ("Gosford Park") played a more controversial figure, British painter Francis Bacon (not to be confused with the legendary 16th century essayist), in John Maybury's "Love Is the Devil: Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon."

THERON. Portrays Britt Ekland in "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers."

LAW. Plays Oscar Wilde's lover in new movie about the novelist.

The film focuses on the artist's (Jacobi) relationship with his lover, George Dryer (Daniel Craig, rumored to be the next James Bond), a former small-time crook, who comes into Bacon's life when the artist catches the careless burglar breaking into his home. Instead of calling the police, though, he invites Dryer to bed—in exchange for anything he wants to steal!

Disturbing

Another well-made albeit disturbing film is Brian Gilbert's "Wilde," which chronicles the life of novelist Oscar Wilde ("The Importance of Being Earnest"). It top-bills Stephen Fry and Jude Law, who plays his lover, Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas.

In Allen Coulter's "Truth, Justice and the American Way," Ben Affleck dons "Superman's" red cape—although fleetingly—when he portrays George Reeves, who rose to fame as TV's Man of Steel.

In the bioflick, Adrien Brody plays a detective who investigates the circumstances behind Reeves' mysterious death.

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3 CAN THIS BE LOVE — MTRCB: GP — P120.00 — 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7.30, 10:00
4 GUESS WHO — MTRCB: PG-13 — 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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6 GOLD (SDDS) PACIFIER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
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4 SAMARA (RING 2)

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4 GUESS WHO

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2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
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2 PARAISO
3 MAPUSOK
4 (DTS) LEFT BEHIND

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FINDING NEVERLAND 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
THE INTERPRETER 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
THE WEDDING DATE 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
THE PACIFIER 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55
SAHARA 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

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1 CAN THIS BE LOVE 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
2 XXX: STATE OF THE UNION 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
3 SAHARA 11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS 11:15 / 2:10 / 5:05 / 8:10
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Sharon Cuneta returns to the concert stage

By Remy M. Umerez

MAY 8 marks the first leg of Sharon Cuneta's US Mega Tour, a much-awaited event for her fans abroad.

It has been almost 10 years since Sharon last embarked on a concert tour. Her World Tour in 1996 broke house records in theaters in Atlantic City, Reno, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Those performances were so successful that her concert's poster was displayed at the Shrine Auditorium's Hall of Fame in LA, along with those of Sheena Easton and Michael Jackson's. It was also displayed at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, alongside Barbra Streisand's.

Opportunity

Sharon enjoys touring because it gives her the opportunity to visit places she hasn't performed in yet. It brings her tremendous joy to please our homesick overseas workers even for just a couple of hours. She could write a book on the fond memories she has gathered while on tour.

She recalls: "In Japan, a fan gave me her camera after I complimented on her high-tech contraption. To my surprise, she gave it to me as a souvenir. I was deeply moved.

"Whatever gifts my fans give me, I bring them home. After sometime, though, I donate some of them to charity, *na alam kong* they won't mind *dahil maganda ang patutunguhan.*"

The Mega Concert Tour 2005 will visit the Moran Performing Arts Theater in Jacksonville, Florida (May 8); Rosemont Theater in Chicago (May 14); the Mark Estess Arena at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City (May 22); Reno Event Center (May 29); Starlight Theater, Pala Casino and Spa in San Diego (June 5) and the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles (June 11).

Special guests

Sharon's special guests are Ogie Alcasid and Robert Seña. Ogie also collaborates with the Megastar in her latest CD, "Sharon Sings Alcasid."

Producer Sandra Chavez clarified complaints that tickets to the shows are too expensive. "We follow the prevailing market price," she pointed out. Sharon, on her part, says that she has no control over ticket prices because the show's producer calls the shots.

Sharon regrets that KC won't be around to watch her concerts because her daughter will be busy rehearsing "Beauty and the Beast." But, husband Kiko and her mom Elaine will be around to lend moral support, as well as daughters Frankie and Miel.

CUNETA. Brings tremendous joy to homesick overseas workers.

George Lucas reveals plans for 'Star Wars' TV series

LOS ANGELES—"Stars Wars" creator George Lucas has revealed that Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia may turn their talents to television, following the release of the last Star Wars film next month.

The movie effects pioneer thrilled fans by announcing his plans last weekend at the first "Star Wars" convention that Lucas has attended in 18 years, Daily Variety said.

The sixth and final episode in the series of movies that Lucas launched in 1977, "Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith," will get its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next month. It hits US screens on May 19. Many fans are anxious about the fate of their heroes.

Hardcore

But, Lucas revealed at the gathering of hardcore fans in the midwestern US city of Indianapolis that his company, Lucasfilm, is working on two television shows that would keep his famed series alive.

Both series will be set in the years between the end of "Revenge of the Sith" and the beginning of the original "Star Wars," he said.

One of the shows will be a half-hour 3-D animated program that expands on Lucas' existing cartoon, the "Clone Wars" miniseries.

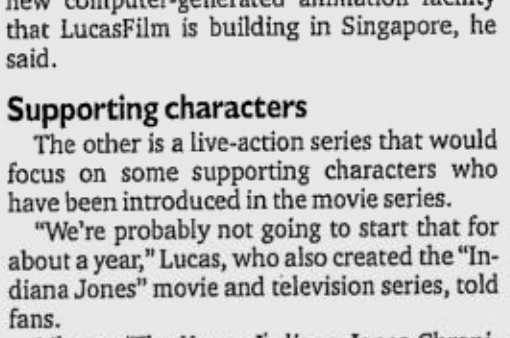
That show would probably be made in a new computer-generated animation facility that LucasFilm is building in Singapore, he said.

Supporting characters

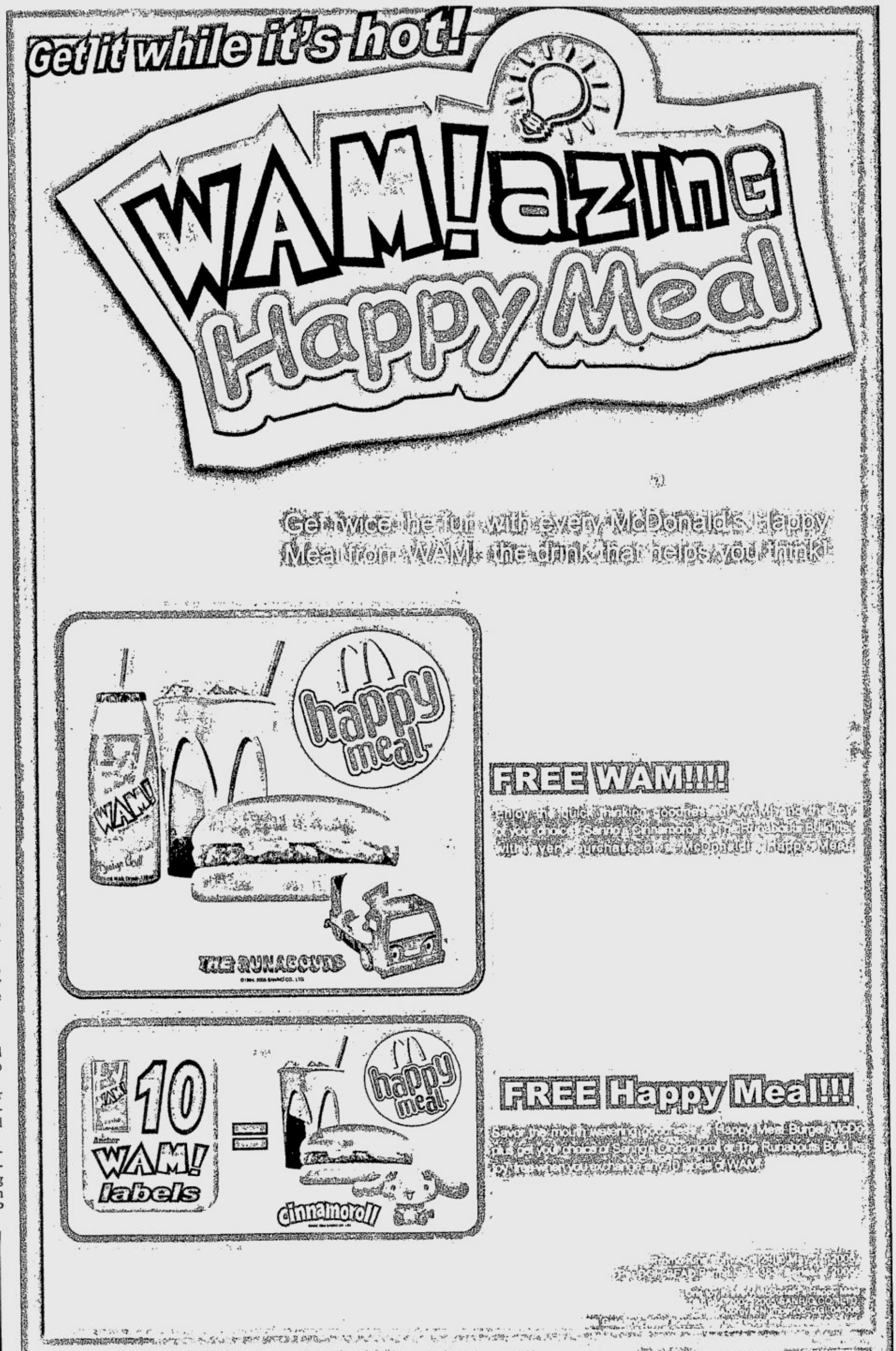
The other is a live-action series that would focus on some supporting characters who have been introduced in the movie series.

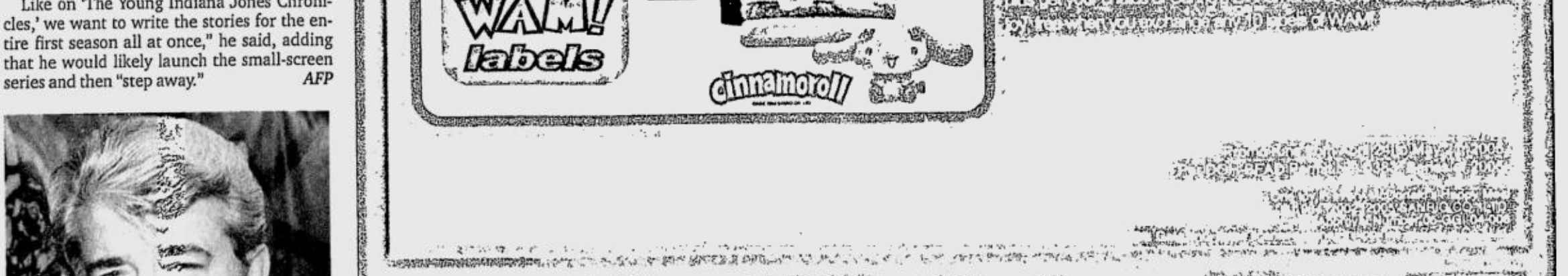
"We're probably not going to start that for about a year," Lucas, who also created the "Indiana Jones" movie and television series, told fans.

Like on 'The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles,' we want to write the stories for the entire first season all at once," he said, adding that he would likely launch the small-screen series and then "step away." *AFP*



LUCAS. His popular sci-fi franchise could find new life on the boob tube.





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7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 THE INTERPRETER
11 GUESS WHO
12 THE WEDDING DATE

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5 THE JACKET
6 SAHARA
7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
8 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 FINDING NEVERLAND
11 THE PACIFIER
12 OK KA PARE KO

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7 THE JACKET
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9 SAHARA
10 GUESS WHO

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2 THE INTERPRETER
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4 SAHARA
5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 OK KA PARE KO
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9 RING OF THE NIBELUNG
10 THE PACIFIER
11 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
12 THE JACKET

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3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

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2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 GUESS WHO
4 SAMARA: RING 2

LUZON

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1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 BE COOL
4 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE PACIFIER

sm city baguio
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 CURSED
3 THE PACIFIER
4 CLOSER

sm city batangas
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city dasmariñas
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

sm city bacoor
1 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 SAHARA
8 THE JACKET

sm city marilao
1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city lucena
1 CURSED
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 CLOSER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 SAHARA
2 RESERVED
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 THE PACIFIER
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
7 BE COOL
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city iloilo
1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 RESERVED
3 BE COOL
4 THE PACIFIER
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 RESERVED
8 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city davao
1 THE PACIFIER
2 SAHARA
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HOSTAGE
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 HIDE AND SEEK

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 THE PACIFIER
3 BE COOL
4 SAMARA: RING 2

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XXX 2
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GUESS WHO?
3 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

CAN THIS BE LOVE
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CANTHIS BE LOVE GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	WEDDING DATE PG13 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	XXX 2:THE NEXT LEVEL PG13 12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30

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starmall EDSA SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Paraiso
4 Can This Be Love
5 XXX 2
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1 Ring of Nibelungs
2 Paraiso
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 XXX 2
6 Can This Be Love

starmall ALABANG
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1 Son of the Mask
2 Rental Reservation
Star Model Search Live
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COJUANGCO. Dynamic spokesperson.

SEAFCTV's new initiatives for 2005 detailed

By Nestor U. Torre

A LOT of good things are happening at the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television, the dynamic organization that promotes better programming for young viewers in the region.

First, broadcasters running the foundation have admitted non-broadcasters into its board. This new development demonstrates the foundation's sincerity in strengthening its advocacy by welcoming other stakeholders into its fold.

Advocates

In addition to the existing representatives of all TV network members, six well-known and staunch advocates of child-friendly entertainment have been invited to join the SEAFCTV board:

McCann Erickson-Philippines chair Emily Abrera; Edgardo Roces; Columbia International Food Products vice-president Elvira Go; Manila Rep Miles Andrew Roces; PLDT and Adboard's Raul Alvarez, and Sulficio Tagud, chair of the new Negros Navigation Corp.

Officers are: Roces as president, IBC's Bob del Rosario as vice president, and Go as treasurer. Go and Pinky Yee of Goldilocks have made generous donations to help fund the foundation's exist'ng and new initiatives.

Star endorsers

They include a series of public service plugs, featuring wholesome star endorsers who won the foundation's Anak TV Seal citations last year.

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, who has agreed to be the foundation's spokesperson, spearheads the stellar cast, which includes Aga Muhlach, Gary Valenciano, Bernadette Sembrano, Mike Enriquez, Mel Tiangco, Korina Sanchez, Christine Bersola and Julius Babao.

Screenings

In addition, the foundation's Secretary General, Mag Hatol, announces that Negros Navigation is again hosting the Anak TV Seal screenings in the regions with Cebu Pacific. The screenings will start in Iloilo this week.

Faithful partners Uni-President, Panasonic and PLDT will again throw in their support with their goods and services. Coca-Cola Bottlers and Hallmark have also committed their support.

This year, an innovation is being introduced in the screening process: In addition to assessing the TV program entries, jurors will also take part in indoor games being introduced by young Anak TV volunteers.

Importance

The aim is to call attention to the importance of fostering family entertainment, and bonding without the aid of television.

The foundation has received heartwarming expressions of support for Anak TV from Rey Langit, Angelo Palmones and Mike Enriquez. They are voicing announcements urging would-be jurors to join the screenings, which will be held either in barangay halls or onboard NENACO vessels.

The Bureau of Broadcasts, led by Dante Cruz, has also pledged to support the TV advocacy. With these and other support groups and individuals, we can expect SEAFCTV to have its most effective season to date this year.

Mariah. . .

• From page A2-5

And while she still coos with rappers and can sing circles around the competition, she's more into soulful nuances than the high-pitched vocal gymnastics that have defined some of her other songs.

"I think for the last couple of times, the direction of her records have been decided by somebody else, so when she came to the studio in the past, she came with a lot of different ideas," says superproducer Jermaine Dupri, a longtime collaborator and friend (Carey, as always, co-wrote and produced most of the new album).

This time, Dupri says, "she knew what kind of record she wanted—a feel-good record."

Still, she's hardly guaranteed of the No. 1 spot anymore on the charts, especially since newer divas—Alicia Keys and Beyoncé among them—have ruled in her absence.

But Island Def Jam Chairman Antonio "L.A." Reid, who arrived at the label after "Charmbracelet" was released, says Carey need not worry.

"There's only a few people who sing. She's one of the few really great singers . . . and the beauty of Mariah is, if you take a snapshot of her career, she's always had the support of the youth." AP

Mariah Carey finally feels free with 'Emancipation of Mimi'

NEW YORK—Old habits die hard, and so it is that Mariah Carey finds herself at a downtown recording studio well past midnight, rehearsing with her band for shows promoting the release of her new album, "The Emancipation of Mimi."

Carey's well-known workaholism hasn't changed. But what has, she says, is her approach to her work: It's no longer all-consuming, the most important thing in her life—and it no longer defines who she is.

"I'm kind of at the point where as long as I can make music, I'm not absorbed by it," says Carey, kicking off her stiletto heels and stretching out on a black leather couch before her late-night session begins.

CAREY. Old habits die hard.

Bigger world

"There's a way bigger world, and a way bigger picture than just living for that, and getting knots in your stomach every time you're worried about what's your chart position," she adds. "It's not that deep. I know who I am as a person, I know who I am as an artist, and I know who my fans are."

Reclaiming Mariah the person is the whole basis of the album as Carey seeks to redefine her image, which has yet to fully recover from the kind of fall from grace that seems to inevitably bewitch most pop superstars.

In 2001, she was at her peak, signing a reported $80-million deal with Virgin Records after a chart-busting run at Sony, which was then headed by her former husband and mentor, Tommy Mottola.

Hospitalized

Later that year, however, she was hospitalized twice for physical and emotional breakdowns close to the release of her movie debut, the much-derided "Glitter." That led to her being painted as an unstable diva, and Virgin bought out her contract for nearly $30 million.

Carey, 35, calls the hoopla over her troubles overblown, and remains frustrated that it's still a topic of discussion.

Carey doesn't avoid talking about that "blip"—she's candid when discussing the troubled times. But she clearly doesn't like revisiting it, and regrets her label's insistence that she do so on "Charmbracelet" with the album's first single, "Through the Rain."

Tearful moments

"Everybody wanted me to be like, 'Let's have that moment, let's sit and cry with Oprah, let's just have tearful moments of like, 'I've overcome this.' (But) I think I was still overcoming it," she says, noting her father had died of cancer a month before that album's release.

Perhaps more damaging to her psyche was her five-year marriage to Mottola, eighteen years her senior. He signed her when she was just a teen to Columbia Records and shaped her blockbuster career in its early years. They divorced in 1998; she describes it as an "abusive relationship."

After she wriggled out of the marriage, she reveled in her freedom, which explains her move toward hip-hop and revealing outfits.

Rehearsal

While she's still looking quite sexy—she arrives for the rehearsal in a tight tank top, tight jeans, her long blond locks in perfect place—she's no longer dressing to out-Britney Britney Spears.

"Yes, there has been an image change. A *slight* image change, because it's still me," she says. "I didn't come out with like, auburn hair and a turtleneck up to here," she says, gesturing to her neck.

MARIAH/ A2-4

Distinct gustatorial flourishes in TV cooking shows

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR months now, we've been watching the Japanese cooking show, "Iron Chef," on TV. We find it more interesting than many other cooking programs because it serves up its ingredients in a grand, even ostentatious manner.

Ordinarily, we would get turned on by ostentation, but we find it a plus in the case of "Iron Chef" because it gives the program its distinct gustatorial flourish.

It's also distinctly Japanese, in the context of that culture's *kabuki* tradition, which is replete with ritual, costumes, drama and quasi-religious fervor.

This manifests itself on "Iron Chef" from the moment we espy its host-producer, a long-maned Japanese impresario who likes to wear hyper-elegant neo-period clothes in the Liberace tradition.

Drama

The host adds to the drama when he declares the day's show to be a competition between a revered culinary master, and a talented contender bent on toppling him from his preeminent position.

Finally, the test of skills becomes even more acute when it's specified that the two culinary combatants will be creating dishes that feature a heretofore secret ingredient: One day it's mushrooms, tomorrow it's octopus, etc.

The "duelling" cooks have less than an hour to come up with as many dishes as they can, so they try to take full advantage of every second they have. As they rush about their respective kitchens, commentators and "spies" try to figure what specific dishes they're working on.

Since the cooks are master artists who love to improvise, the spies make wrong predictions and often end up with egg on their faces. But, that's part of the excitement of the cooking tilt.

Experts

Speaking of excitement, everything peaks when the cooks' dishes are tasted by a panel of experts, who love to come up with deep, poetic appreciations of the artistic culinary creations they're sampling. They then pick a winner, and 95 percent of the time, it's the reigning master chef who ends up victorious. Well, that's part of Japanese tradition, too.

Recently, we watched an American show that tried to come up with its version of the "Iron Chef" cooking "duel." It's called "Food Fight," and involves teams of cooks, instead of a one-on-one confrontation. How does it compare to "Iron Chef"? Not very well.

For one thing, it's only 30 minutes long, so its action can't rise up to a dramatic flourish, as "Iron Chef" does. Second, each team is required to come up with only one dish, so its versatility and brilliance aren't tested. Finally, the contestants aren't as serious and visionary as their Japanese counterparts, so the effect of their culinary "performances" is relatively weak and bland.

Flirtation

Incidentally there's another cooking competition on the tube, and it's titled "Date Plate." This show adds romance and flirtation to its recipe for audience appeal: It features two male amateur cooks who whip up a fancy dinner for a beautiful young woman. After sampling their cooking, she picks a winner, and goes out on a presumably romantic date with him.

It's a yummy twist to the old saying about the way to a man's heart, etc—only this time, it's the males who are doing the cooking, and the woman who's, hmmm, masticating...

Fitness workshop

ACTRESS and fitness guru Jackielou Blanco conducts her first workshop on fitness and health, "Fitness in the Home," on May 10 and 11, 9-11 a.m., at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas blvd. The SNACK Arts workshop (726-7164) tackles exercises that can be done at home, without gym equipment, and also includes a lecture on food and diet, and an open forum on health and wellness.

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Cheesecake, Etc. Hue Restaurant at Greenbelt 3. And Japs at the Fort and Alabang Town Center. Log on to www.equitablecard.com.mtv.

Mikey Arroyo

On his 36th birthday last April 26, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo held job fairs, medical missions, feeding programs relief goods distribution, and circumcision operations, and distributed trucks to farmers.

Mikey is currently shooting a comedy film with Katrina Halili, Ethel Booba and John Apacible, produced by Cine Suerte Films and directed by Willy Milan.

Spettacolo Pirotecnico

At 9 p.m. on April 30 and May 14 and 21, a grand 15-minute fireworks exhibition will be held at Enchanted Kingdom. Billed as "Spettacolo Pirotecnico," the spectacle also features kaleidoscopic laser lights and brilliant beam effects.

At 7 p.m. on May 1, 15, 22 and 29, the "StarStruck" Final Four and "Pinoy Pop Superstar" weekly finalists perform in "Sun Moon and StarStruck," directed by Freddie Santos. Call 830-2111.

Movies on TV

On HBO, April 30 at 10 a.m., "Little Nikita." 1:30 p.m., "The Matrix Revolutions." 5:10 p.m., "Charlotte Gray."

On Cinemax, April 30 at 3:30 p.m., "Truman."

Sunbolt

The new sports drink, Sunbolt, keeps active people hydrated all day long, replenishing electrolytes lost through sweat after a long and tiring workout or sports activity. Sunbolt comes in seven delicious flavors: grape, fruit punch, lime, lemon, kiwi strawberry, orange and citrus berry.

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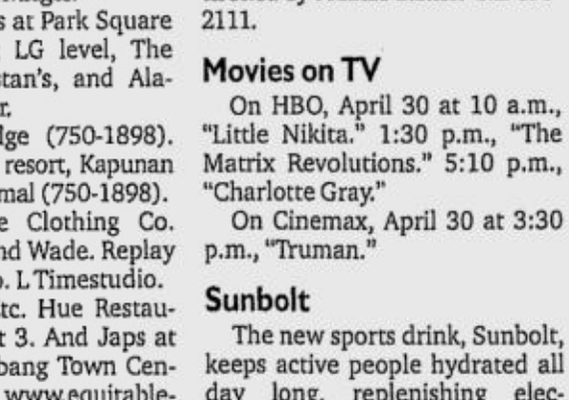
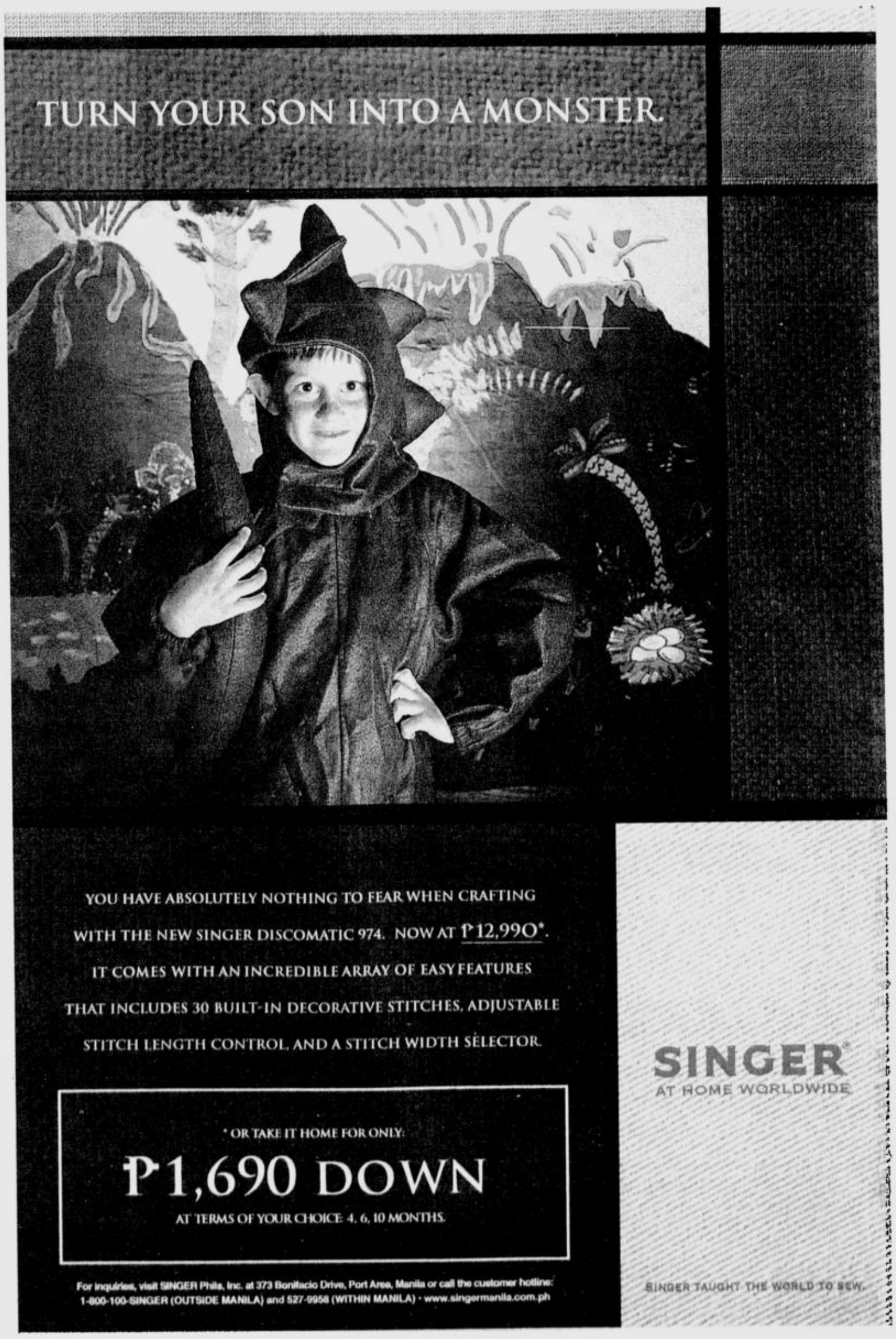


BLANCO. Demonstrates exercises that can be done without gym equipment.



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1 XXX 2 • THX
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

2 XXX 2
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

5 GUESS WHO?
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 THE WEDDING DATE
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 THE JACKET
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

8 SAHARA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

9 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 SAMARA RING 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 XXX 2
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2 GUESS WHO?
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3 SAHARA
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4 THE JACKET
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5 THE WEDDING DATE
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6 THE INTERPRETER
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7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:10 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BOSO
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SAHARA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

3 THE JACKET
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

4 THE WEDDING DATE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

5 THE INTERPRETER
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6 GUESS WHO?
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:10 8:30 10:30

7 XXX 2
10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:20

8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12:20 3:15 6:10 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 XXX 2
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2 THE INTERPRETER
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25

3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:20

4 THE JACKET
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20

5 GUESS WHO?
10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

6 XXX 2
10:40 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

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1 XXX 2
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 GUESS WHO?
4 THE INTERPRETER

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HOSTAGE
2 CURSED
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 PARAISO

CAINTA 240-4661

1 XXX 2
2 THE JACKET
3 SAHARA
4 PARAISO

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4 SAMARA RING 2
5 ASTERIX AND OBELIX

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1 XXX 2
2 PONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 SAMARA RING 2
4 BOOGEYMAN
5 HOSTAGE

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1 XXX 2
2 GUESS WHO?
3 PARAISO
4 HOSTAGE
5 ASTERIX AND OBELIX

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 XXX 2
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 SAMARA RING 2
4 OK KA, PARE KO

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1 XXX 2
2 PARAISO
3 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
4 CURSED
5 BOSO
6 SAHARA

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1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 PARAISO
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA RING 2
5 XXX 2
6 XXX 2

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1 XXX 2
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 XXX 2
4 THE PACIFIER
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 SAMARA RING 2

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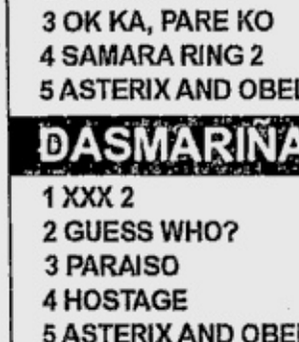
1 XXX 2
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 THE PACIFIER
4 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 SAMARA RING 2



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AYALA CINEMAS

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THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 GUESS WHO | 2 XXX 2 | 3 THE INTERPRETER | 4 CAN THIS BE LOVE

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 GUESS WHO | 2 THE WEDDING DATE | 3 THX THE INTERPRETER 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 SAHARA | 5 CAN THIS BE LOVE | 6 XXX 2 | 7 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
2 XXX 2 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 THX THE INTERPRETER 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
2 THX XXX 2 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
3 THE WEDDING DATE 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 FINDING NEVERLAND 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 / XXX 2 8:35, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS
5 GUESS WHO 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THX XXX 2
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 GUESS WHO
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 THE INTERPRETER

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 XXX 2 | 2 BE COOL | 3 CAN THIS BE LOVE | 4 FINDING NEVERLAND

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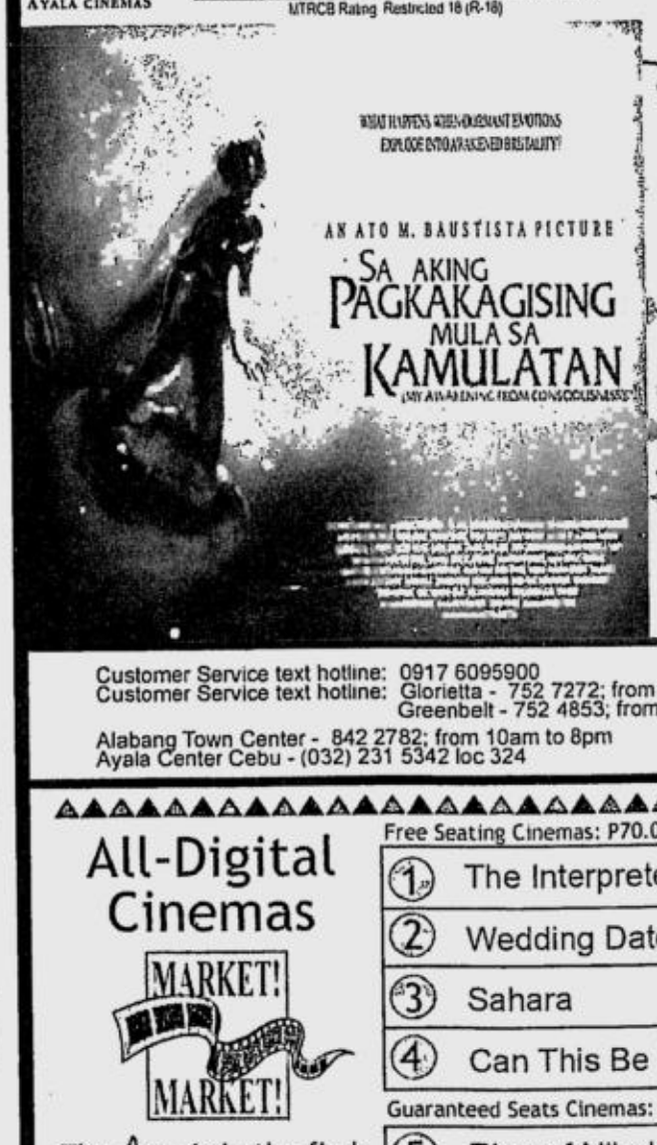

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Pope John Paul II's early years depicted in 'Karol'

ROME—Italian film critics recently got their first viewing of a new made-for-TV movie about Pope John Paul II that focuses on the pontiff's early years, when his native Poland was under brutal Nazi occupation.

"Karol, a Man Who Became Pope" was put into production months before his death on April 2. The pope's given name was Karol Wojtyla.

Family

When John Paul was 20, his father died, leaving him with no immediate family in a country under Nazi domination. He studied for the priesthood clandestinely, and in 1944, his name appeared on a Nazi blacklist for his activities in the Christian democratic underground. B'nai B'rith and other organizations testified that he helped Jews find refuge from the Nazis.

Great personality

"We were trying not to copy Karol Wojtyla's gestures and voice, but to give symbols to try to touch fragments of his great personality," Piotr Adamczyk, a Polish actor who plays the young John Paul, told reporters recently.

Truthful history

"I'm very happy that this film was shot in Poland, because we were able to show Polish mentality, and a truthful history," he said.

Giacomo Battiato, the producer behind the miniseries, hailed John Paul for his inclusiveness, and for reaching out to the downtrodden.

ADAMCZYK. Plays the young pontiff in TV movie.

Message

"The message of John Paul II talks about respect for human life," he said. "What's interesting is that, you understand why this message became his aim—his main task."

In a 1999 visit to his birthplace, John Paul reminisced about growing up in a small town, recalling his friends, his home, and Jewish neighbors who were sent to death camps by the Nazis.

Emotional scene

The film, which was shot mostly on location in Poland, opens with Germany's invasion in September 1939. One emotional scene depicts John Paul as a cardinal in tears, as votes for him were being counted during the 1978 conclave that elected him pope.

Although the filmmakers concede the movie includes some embellishments of John Paul's personal story, they insist they faced no objections from the Vatican over the $14.2-million project.

Installment

The first installment of the film—originally made in Polish, but also dubbed into Italian—was shown in Italy when the secret conclave to elect the new pope, Benedict XVI (John Ratzinger), got under way in the Sistine Chapel.

The producers said the series will be released on DVD and home video. *AP*

Hollywood's fine actor-musicians remembered

ByBehn Cervantes

DURING Hollywood's grand musical heydays, I was entertained by sumptuous musicals with the biggest stars, top singers, zestful dancers, grand sets and lovely chorines masterfully choreographed by Busby Berkeley.

Jose Iturbi and Xavier Cugat were two MGM musicians I distinctly remember. Whenever the studio would produce a grand musical, the scriptwriters would be asked to write in roles for these Spanish musicians.

Jose Iturbi was born in Valencia, Spain in 1895. Iturbi was of Basque ancestry. As a lad, he played the piano accompaniment for silent movies in his native country. He honed his craft as a child prodigy at the Conservatory of Geneva.

By 1929, he went to the United States to perform either as a soloist or as guest conductor for respected orchestras. In the '40s, he was invited by Hollywood to appear or work as musical supervisor in grand musicals. He was so respected that he usually appeared as himself, always coming across as an urbane and cultured person.

Recording

He helped popularize classical music in Hollywood films, especially with his recording of Chopin's "Polonaise in A Flat," which he played for Cornel Wilde (who portrayed the composer in "A Song To Remember") in 1945.

Iturbi's interpretation of the piece sold a million copies, and was played by Americans alongside pop songs of that era.

He appeared in musical extravaganzas like "Anchors Aweigh," "Holiday in Mexico," etc. Occasionally, he was tapped to take a straight role as the lead in productions like "Three Daring Daughters," with Jeannette MacDonald. He passed away in 1980.

On the other hand, Xavier Cugat was born in Barcelona, Spain in 1900 and died in 1990 after a colorful career as a band leader. His family migrated to Havana, Cuba when he was only three years old. It was in the Cuban capital that he fell in love with Latin music and dance.

CUGAT. Rhumba King.

He helped introduce and popularize Latino music in the US in the '40s. His public persona was that of a Hispanic comic with twinkling eyes, a thin moustache, a distinct Latino accent and a pet chihuahua that he carried in his palm, as he joyously conducted his orchestra. Actually, his first work in Los Angeles was as a cartoonist, a skill he exploited even while conducting his orchestra across the United States.

Genial friend

He was hailed as the Rhumba King. He appeared in films conducting his renowned band. He was usually cast as a genial friend of the leading characters in "Bathing Beauty," "Hollywood in Mexico," and "Chicago Syndicate."

His recordings are still staple fare in Hispanic communities. Desi Arnaz, Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez and Julio Iglesias owe him a lot for cultivating the audience they profitably enjoy today.

Jenni Epperson cites stylish celebrities

By Jocelyn Valle

WHO are the stylish men and women in show business today?

Sharon Cuneta, KC Concepcion, Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Jolina Magdangal, Heart Evangelista and Sandara Park, says fashion stylist Jenni Epperson—who's also creative director of Just Shop, the Inquirer's shopping magazine, and host of Lifestyle Network's "Good Finds."

"Sharon's style is simple, but she knows what works for her body. On the other hand, KC's style is effortless. Piolo has a knack for putting together fuss-free outfits and looks very clean in them. Diether seems very *mabango.*"

Epitome

"I give Heart points for being *kikay*. A lot of people think Jolina is *baduy*, but she has her own style. Sandara is the cutest! I'm so into K(orean)-Pop, and she's its epitome," she exclaims.

Romnick Sarmenta, on the other hand, badly needs a makeover. "He's the cutest guy," she says of the forever child star "He's got great eyes and a lanky body. He just needs a new wardrobe."

"I love working with actors, because they give character to the clothes they wear," she points out. "But, I also have unpleasant experiences with some of them. I hate people who have a preconceived idea about how they should look."

It's nasty to look down on sexy starlets, who usually end up as laughable fashion victims in awards shows, adds Jenni.

"Sometimes, it's not their fault to look like that. The reason why they are not well dressed is because they can't afford a nice gown, which requires good material."

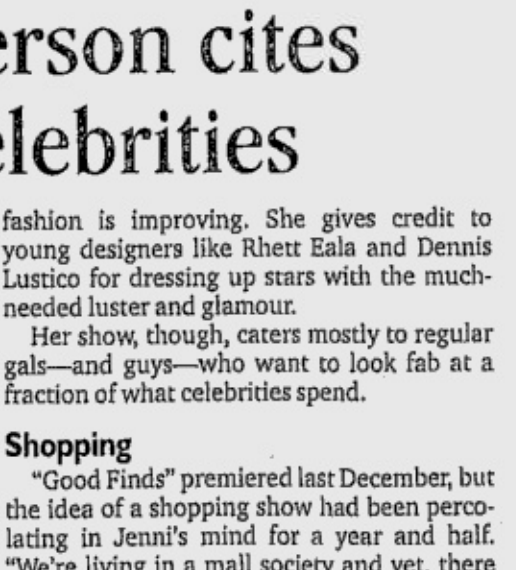
Generally, Jenni observes that red-carpet fashion is improving. She gives credit to young designers like Rhett Eala and Dennis Lustico for dressing up stars with the much-needed luster and glamour.

Her show, though, caters mostly to regular gals—and guys—who want to look fab at a fraction of what celebrities spend.

Shopping

"Good Finds" premiered last December, but the idea of a shopping show had been percolating in Jenni's mind for a year and half. "We're living in a mall society and yet, there hasn't been a show about shopping," she remembers muttering to herself.

Jenni was about to pitch her idea to ABS-CBN when she got a call from Lifestyle Network, which is a subsidiary of the giant network. After only two weeks of negotiations, the stylist had become a TV host!



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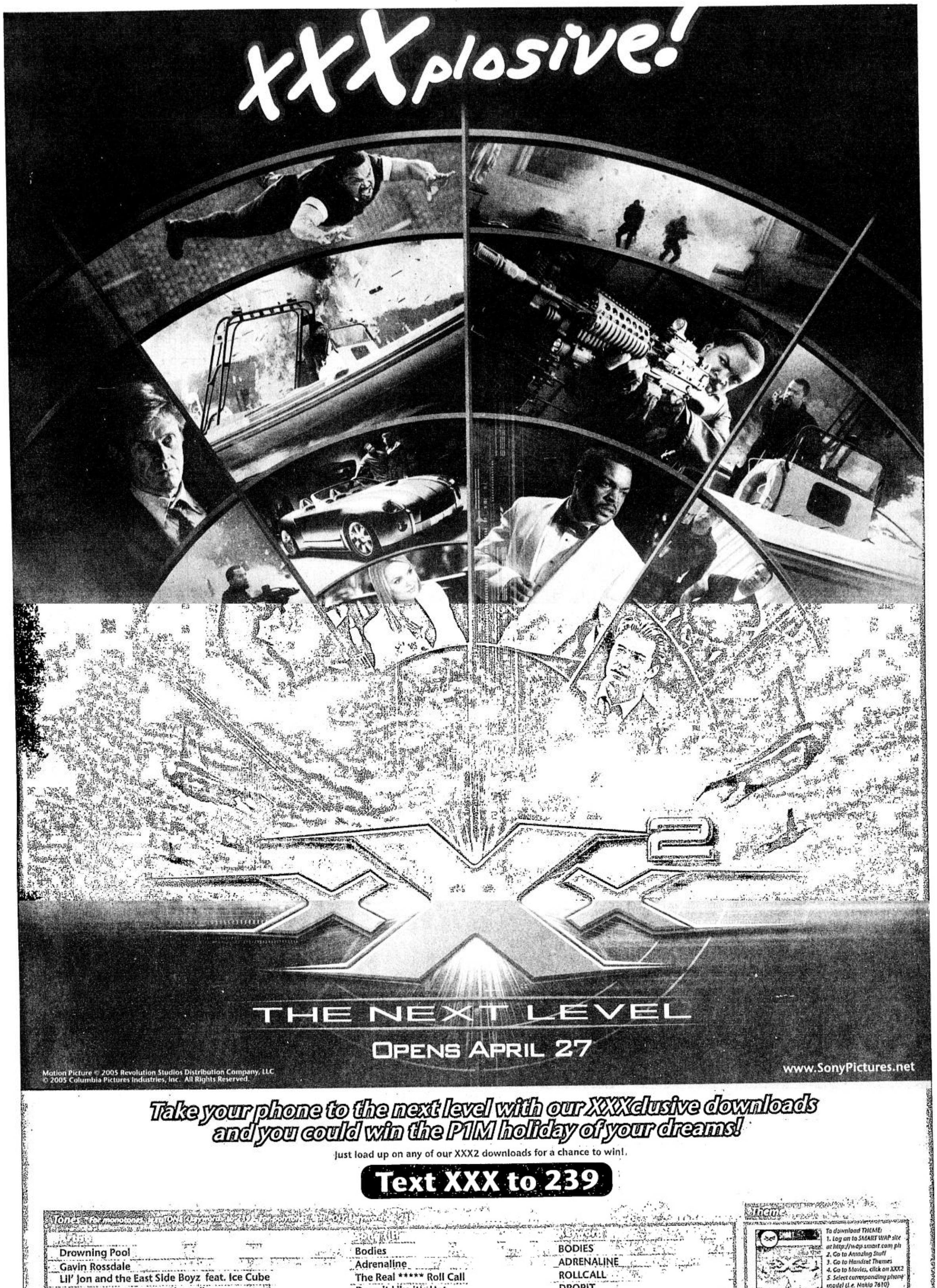

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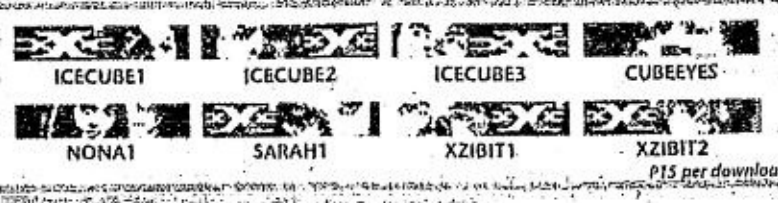

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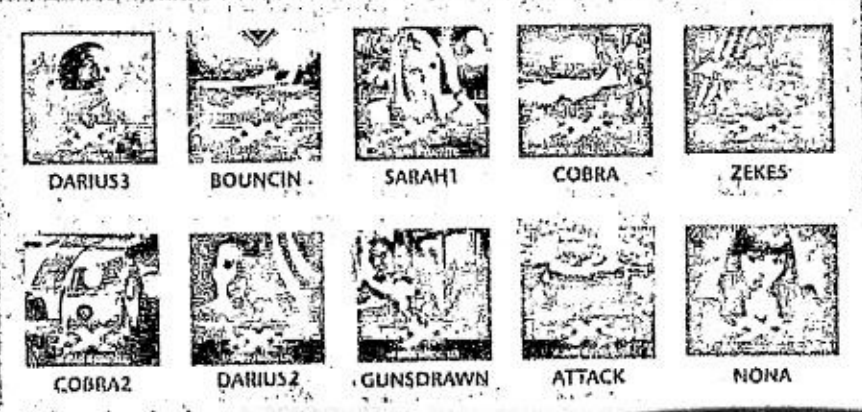

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SATURDAY Special

Summer's filmic comers— and bummers

By Nestor U. Torre

THUS far this year, Hollywood productions haven't been doing all that well, either at the tills or in the quality department. That's why US movie people are pinning their hopes on the 50 or so films showing this summer to make up for the slack.

The top new attraction this summer is "War of the Worlds," Steven Spielberg's cool and smart adaptation of H.G. Wells' classic sci-fi tale. The production's stellar cachet is the rare combination of Tom Cruise and Spielberg, who have worked together on a film only once before (in "Minority Report").

CRUISE (WITH DAKOTA FANNING, LEFT). Teams up anew with Steven Spielberg in "War of the Worlds."

Prequels and sequels

Summer 2005 is turning out to be a season for prequels and sequels, and topping that category this year is "Star Wars 3: Revenge of the Sith." The last installment in the exceedingly profitable film franchise is a must-see cinematic event, because it shows how Anakin Skywalker finally transforms himself into the ultra-evil Darth Vader.

For its part, "The Longest Yard" is a remake of a Burt Reynolds hit, with Adam Sandler now playing the lead role of a prisoner who puts up a surprisingly successful football team. Chris Rock co-stars.

Summer being vacation time, parents are always on the lookout for child-friendly films that will keep their kids from getting bored and pestering their households pets to within an inch of their lives or sanity.

What's *the* summer flick for kids to see? It's "Madagascar," an animated feature about four animals in Central Park's zoo that get off their citified, sissified butts and head for the wilds—where they get involved in more adventures than they bargained for!

Mental note

Also make a mental note to take the kids to see. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," billed as a "re-imagining" of Gene Wilder's old "Willie Wonka" hit. Wilder's role is now being played by Johnny Depp, and the production is no longer a musical.

What about a more significant movie for serious film buffs? That would be "Cinderella Man," where Russell Crowe plays a family man who transforms himself into a boxer to make money for his children.

He is so successful at reinventing himself that he becomes a heavyweight champion! Sadly, however, similarly heavy consequences have to be faced.

Separation

Finally, a lot of viewers are setting their sights on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," for the simple reason that it was while shooting this movie with Angelina Jolie that Brad Pitt announced his separation from Jennifer Aniston.

Naturally, many people have jumped to the conclusion that Jolie's charms made Aniston pale in Pitt's eyes—a conjecture that all the parties involved fiercely deny.

Still, you can't really keep some people from thinking the worst of others, especially when they're stars, so the film will attract viewers who want to "see for themselves" if the production will reveal any "evidence" of its two stars' reel and real romantic "chemistry."

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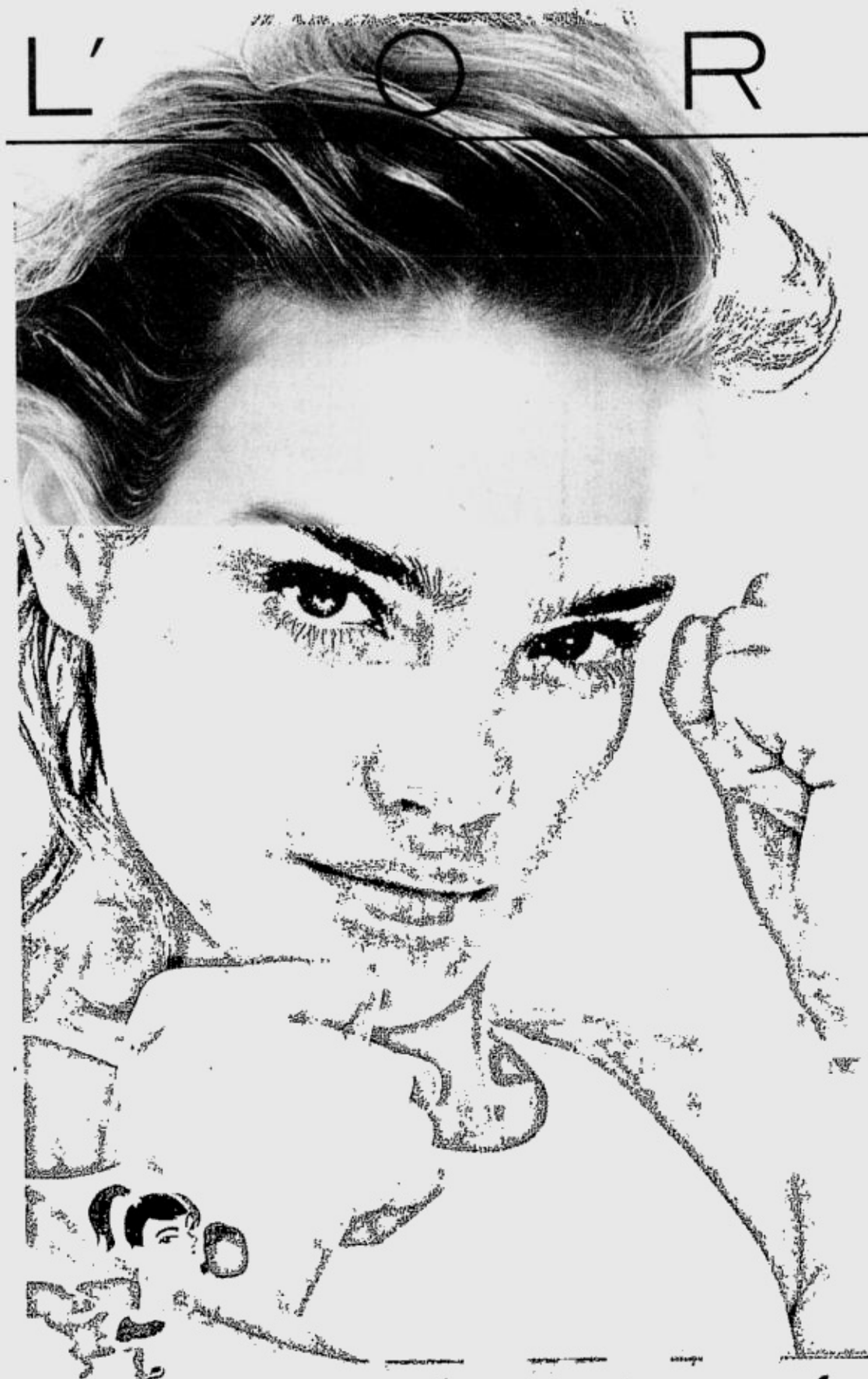

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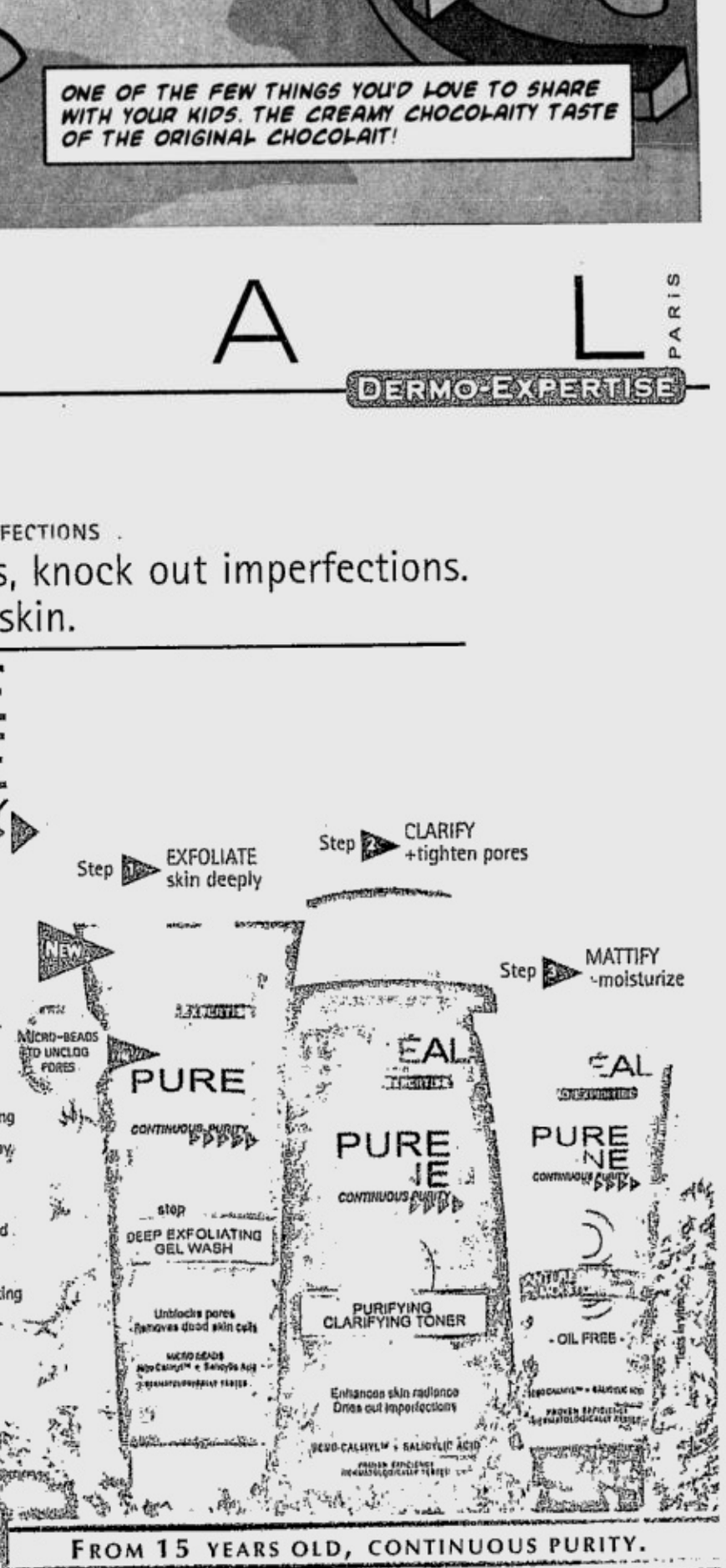

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NOW SHOWING

Sparks fly in Sandara and Hero's heartwarming romantic drama

By Rito P. Asilo

"Can This Be Love?"
D: Jose Javier Reyes
S: Sandara Park, Hero Angeles

PARK. Perfect cinematic heroine.

JOSE Javier Reyes delivers a simple but heartwarming tale about star-crossed lovers hounded by their cultural and economic differences. Hero Angeles plays Ryan, a poor Nursing student, whose idea of the good life is to work abroad the minute he gets his degree. Sandara Park plays Hyun Hea, a Korean exchange student who's finishing an English course at a local university. A bevy of "Mean Girls"-type bullies constantly picks on her and calls her names.

On the other hand, Ryan, who works as a typist to make ends meet, despises how Hea, whom he hasn't met, expresses her frustrations over her Filipino tormentors in the term paper that he's typing—not to mention her grammatical blunders.

When he decides to replace his old cell phone, he readily warms up to the new unit's seller, Daisy, and begins exchanging sweet text messages with her. Suddenly, Daisy finds in Ryan a shoulder to cry on. Imagine his frustration when he realizes that Hea, his Korean pet peeve, and Daisy, his thoughtful and sensitive textmate, are one and the same! But, fate and romance bring the unlikely pair together.

There's nothing new in Reyes' latest film—after all, the movie is meant as a *kilig*-inducing vehicle for the immensely popular pair. What the director successfully pulls off is the feat of incorporating pop-culture references (texting, call centers, indie music, etc.) that viewers can readily relate to, without overwhelming his narrative.

He makes these elements work around scenes that resonate with lessons on life, love and national identity—and that's saying a lot about a film that is basically meant for the fans! It also stands as a reminder that love—which doesn't always end up in the happily-ever-afters—knows no race, language or economic status. Reyes should also be commended for trying to break racial stereotypes, and for executing the obligatory but refreshing for-the-fans conclusion to his story.

The film benefits from its good-looking young actors—who are no slouches in the acting department, either. Roxanne Guinoo and Joross Gamboa's characters are ably used in a side story that is as sad as it is real (although the beautiful and talented Roxanne needs to have more control over her dramatic histrionics).

Another notable acting find is the bedimpled Paw Diaz, who shines despite her short and decorative role.

But, the movie's strongest assets are Sandara and Hero, who make the swoon-worthy story believable and touching. Park continues to charm fans with her endearing cluelessness and, under Reyes' direction, acquits herself well even in dramatic moments. (Her "Slow down" lines are particularly effective.) The perfect cinematic heroine, she plays the kind-hearted underdog to the hilt—and fans love empathizing with her when she's caught in embarrassing situations.

When Sandara decides to fight back, her throng of fans cheers her on. She may look daft, but in one scene, when confronted by a debate on love versus obligation, she asks: "How can you know who you are without tradition?" And we know she's right.

FORUM

Truth vs. sensationalism in show biz talk shows on TV

By Noelani Torre

SHOW BIZ talk shows have become mainstays on Philippine television for the past 15 years. Judging by their sheer number alone, it looks like they're still among the most popular shows. Recently, however, we've noticed that these programs have ventured into more sensitive territory, dealing with topics and issues that are not normally discussed on television, much less on a gossip show. We asked several viewers about their thoughts concerning show biz talk shows, in general. Their views:

Scandals

"I don't bother watching them anymore. You can predict what's going to be shown, anyway. If it's not about who got somebody pregnant, it would be the sex-video scandals. It's sad that they stoop to showing something this low rather than thinking of better topics to air. It encourages the wrong values in kids who might be watching. It gives them the wrong ideas about marriage, and what intimacy is all about."—*Alex Sampayan, 20*

Fake

"*Hindi ko* consciously *pinipiling manood ng tsismis, pero kadalasan kasi, ito lang ang palabas na naaabutan ko. Sa totoo lang, nae-entertain ako kasi nakakatawa at ang bababaw. Alam natin na* fake, *di ba? Tsaka, alam kong malaswa, pero, natatawa pa rin ako pag may napapanood akong mga bold star na nagsisiraan. Hindi ko lang nagugustuhan yung lantarang pakikialam nila sa buhay ng may buhay. Oo, sikat yung tao, kaya talagang paguusapan siya, pero 'wag sana tayong maki-sali sa mga* personal problems *nila.*" —*David Licera, 18*

"I personally loathe local talk shows. They make a profit off people by trading in lies and dressing them up as the truth. Their basis for existence is airing show biz people's dirty linen in public—which I find disgusting. Their doing so connotes that these sordid little stories are worth our attention, and unfortunately a lot of viewers allow themselves to be fooled.

Behavior

"Placing starlets and their foibles on center stage, so to speak, gives us the idea that these 'celebrities' ' behavior is worthy of emulation, resulting in what I see as the increasing inability of our generation to distinguish between what is true and what is sensational."—*Maureen Llona, 26*

"Most hosts of local talk shows are people from show business who have already captured the hearts of Filipinos—they are very well-known. In effect, most people think that these hosts' opinions are the actual truth, even though they are mostly dealing with gossip. People find it easy to believe them because they feel that they really know these celebrities.

"Maybe we are getting a distorted version of reality, because the hosts of these talk shows are providing us with their own version of what they think is true. I don't think it's good for our nation's youth, because we watch these shows inside the home. What we listen to at home shapes what a person thinks of the world outside, and their sense of morality will also be negatively affected if they believe a distorted version of reality to be the truth!"—*Lanlyn Olbes, 23*

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Manay Ichu honored for contributions to film industry

By Lena Strait Pareja

FINALLY an achievement award for *Manay* Ichu!

The timing could not have been better, coming as it does in the wake of Fernando Poe Jr.'s demise, when Philippine cinema is at its lowest ebb. The terrible impact of his passing is strongly felt by Filipinos who loved him.

By naming its Lifetime Achievement award after FPJ, the Film Academy of the Philippines acknowledges his contributions to Philippine culture and the cinema.

For its first recipient, the FAP has chosen a lady producer who had worked closely with the movie "king" in instituting reforms and benefits for the local movie industry.

Cinematic genealogy

No one can lay claim to "royalty" in cinematic genealogy more than Maria Azucena Victoria Vera Perez Maceda, better known in the Philippine movie world as "Manay" Ichu.

She, whose forebears founded Sampaguita Pictures in 1937, comes from a long line of true-blue cineastes. Sampaguita was one of the first studios to produce talking pictures here.

It has produced more than 600 movies, including the last dozen films produced by *Manay* Ichu herself after her father, the famous starmaker Dr. Jose R. Perez, succumbed to a heart attack in 1975.

Manay Ichu became a movie producer by necessity, not by design: Somebody had to succeed in her father's footsteps. When Doc Perez died at 59, his other children—Pepito, Gina, Bobby, Lillibeth, Chona and Cocoy— with wife Azucena, were too young to take over the business. Being the eldest, Marichu was trained by her father to write screenplays for Sampaguita films and supervise the wardrobe department, as well as do production design on the side.

Training

Her training was cut short by her marriage to then Manila councilor Ernesto Maceda in 1962. From the world of make-believe, she plunged headlong into politics when her husband became the youngest cabinet member during President Marcos' term.

After 10 years, Marichu returned to the movies to produce the Alma Moreno starrer, "Ms Eva Fonda, 16." With calculated risk, she daringly booked its opening day at the elegant Cinerama in Manila, and engaged in a massive marketing campaign that almost upset its rival, Fernando Poe Jr.'s "Alakdang Gubat," at the box office.

MACEDA. Spearheaded comprehensive study on Filipino movies' development and future prospects.

At the 1972 Asian Film Festival held in Australia that year, *Manay* Ichu was impressed with the Filipino film, "Itim," that won for Mike de Leon the best director award. Thereafter, a lasting friendship was forged between her and De Leon.

Success

Mike is the grandson of Doña Sisang B. Vda de Leon, who built LVN Pictures in the late 1930s, about the same time that the Vera Perez family was enjoying the successes of Sampaguita loveteams.

From this friendship came about "Batch '81," which Mike directed and *Manay* Ichu would produce under her MVP Pictures.

But first, there was the PMPPA to attend to. It was her grandfather, Jose O. Vera, together with three other post-World War II movie producers—Atty. Manny de Leon of LVN Pictures, Dr. Ciriaco Santiago of Premiere Productions, and businessman Rafael Anton of Lebran Pictures—who established the Philippine Movie Producers Association (PMPA).

The four studios were known as the "Big Four." In time, the PMPA became the PMPPA (Philippine Motion Picture Producers Association) when the Big Four and the studio system gave way to the rise of independent producers, composed mainly of former contract stars who had established their own movie companies—like Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ Productions), Joseph Estrada (Emar and JE Productions), Dolphy (RVQ Productions), Chiquito (Sotang Bastos Films), etc.

Preparation

She devoted the first year of her term to the preparation of "A Comprehensive Study of the Philippine Movie Industry to Enhance Its Development" which cost half a million pesos—money which the PMPPA didn't have in its coffers. So, she went to Joseph Estrada, who was then mayor of San Juan and president of Mowelfund (Movie Workers Welfare Foundation) for assistance. Estrada agreed to assume the cost.

"Heartened by this response, I urged every sector of the local film industry to put up its own guild to form the Film Academy of the Philippines," *Manay* Ichu recalls.

"Within a few months, the creation of the Filipino Motion Picture Development Board (Filmboard) was proposed, with four modules: the FAP, to professionalize all workers in the industry; a film fund to give soft loans, with the film product itself as collateral; a film archive to preserve local films; and a board of standards to reward good films with tax incentives." The rest is history.

Following the successful move to shift the Manila Film Festival playdate from June to December when the Christmas and New Year holidays spelled bigger box-office returns for a 10-day, all-Filipino-movie festival, *Manay* Ichu was reelected president of the PMPPA.

Estrada, who in the next decade would become president of the Philippines, was most eloquent in his speech when he cited the unification of the entire movie industry as *Manay* Ichu's greatest achievement in her first term as head of PMPPA.

Thus, *Manay* Ichu served her second term, during which she faced another big challenge from the 1000-plus members of the Actors' Guild.

Reluctant

The rift among leaders of the Actors' Guild had threatened the unity of the movie workers themselves. To resolve this, *Manay* Ichu prevailed upon its most popular but reluctant guild member, Fernando Poe Jr., to run for presidency of the guild. FPJ had to talk to powerful members of the group before he finally acceded to their request. He won by an overwhelming vote.

Manay Ichu has had her share of ups-and-downs as a movie producer, but her heart continues to pulsate with love for the cinema, despite monumental headaches and personal heartaches. While her more aggressive colleagues, directors and stars took to the streets to battle for eradication of prohibitive tax rates, oppressive censorship and film piracy, she chose to work behind the scenes, devoting much of her time and energy to programming legislative bills to give industry people benefits and reforms that they could use in times of need. ***(To be concluded)***

Permanent shelter

LOTUS POND

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CONCLUSION of Jagad Guru's lecture on dealing with constant changes in an impermanent world:

"How do I absorb the eternal? Listen and take shelter through aural reception, and in the holy names of the Supreme Person. He has various names: Jehovah, Allah, Gopala, Govinda, Rama, etc. Rest in these names because they are eternal. By taking shelter in him, we are able to find the permanence, security and comfort in this ever-changing world.

Core

"We can focus our attention to him, take the core of our being and rest in His name. The world around us may continue to change, but if we find our security in God, then the changes around us won't matter at all, because our shelter does *not* change— it's permanent! So, don't be disturbed by the ever-changing world. You won't be able to stop it.

"A constant struggle in this world is how to stop the clock—stopping time, halting change. But you don't need to stop "change" to achieve permanence. Rather, let time take its course. Let change continue—don't fight it.

"Rest in the Supreme Being, rest in what's eternal. And from that vantage point, from that restful place in your position of eternal security, you'll appreciate the ever-changing world circulating around you: 'My face and body are changing. The world, the weather are changing. But, I remain unchanged.

"You can live in eternal peace. Place your heart in the hands of the Supreme Beloved. Take shelter in Him, and find the foundation that no one can ever take away: This is where your home lies!"

Watch out for 'Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros'

By Rica Arevalo

YAMAMOTO. Cinemalaya finalist.

ANOTHER Cinemalaya entry worth seeing this July is "Ang Pagdadalaga Ni Maximo Oliveros," written by Michiko Yamamoto. Talented and shy Michiko is the award-winning writer behind the critically acclaimed film, "Magnifico."

I chanced upon her on the set of "Ang Pagdadalaga..." in an old house in Sampaloc, Manila. She was quietly sitting in a corner, observing the pandemonium of the production.

The film is about Maxie (Nathaneal Lopez), who lives in the slums, obediently serving his father (Soliman Cruz) and his two brothers (Neil Sese and Ping Medina), who are both small-time criminals. This changes when an idealistic policeman, Victor (JR Valentin) arrives in their community and refuses to bow down to his father like everyone else.

Better life

When Maxie starts to "fall in love" with Victor and begins to dream of a better life, confusion for the homosexual boy becomes pronounced. He has to choose between Victor and his *barako* family.

Michiko shares, "Hopefully, this film will not be compared with 'Magnifico,' because they are very different. 'Ang Pagdadalaga...' is a love triangle between Maxie, Victor and Maxie's family. It is the coming-of-age story of a child."

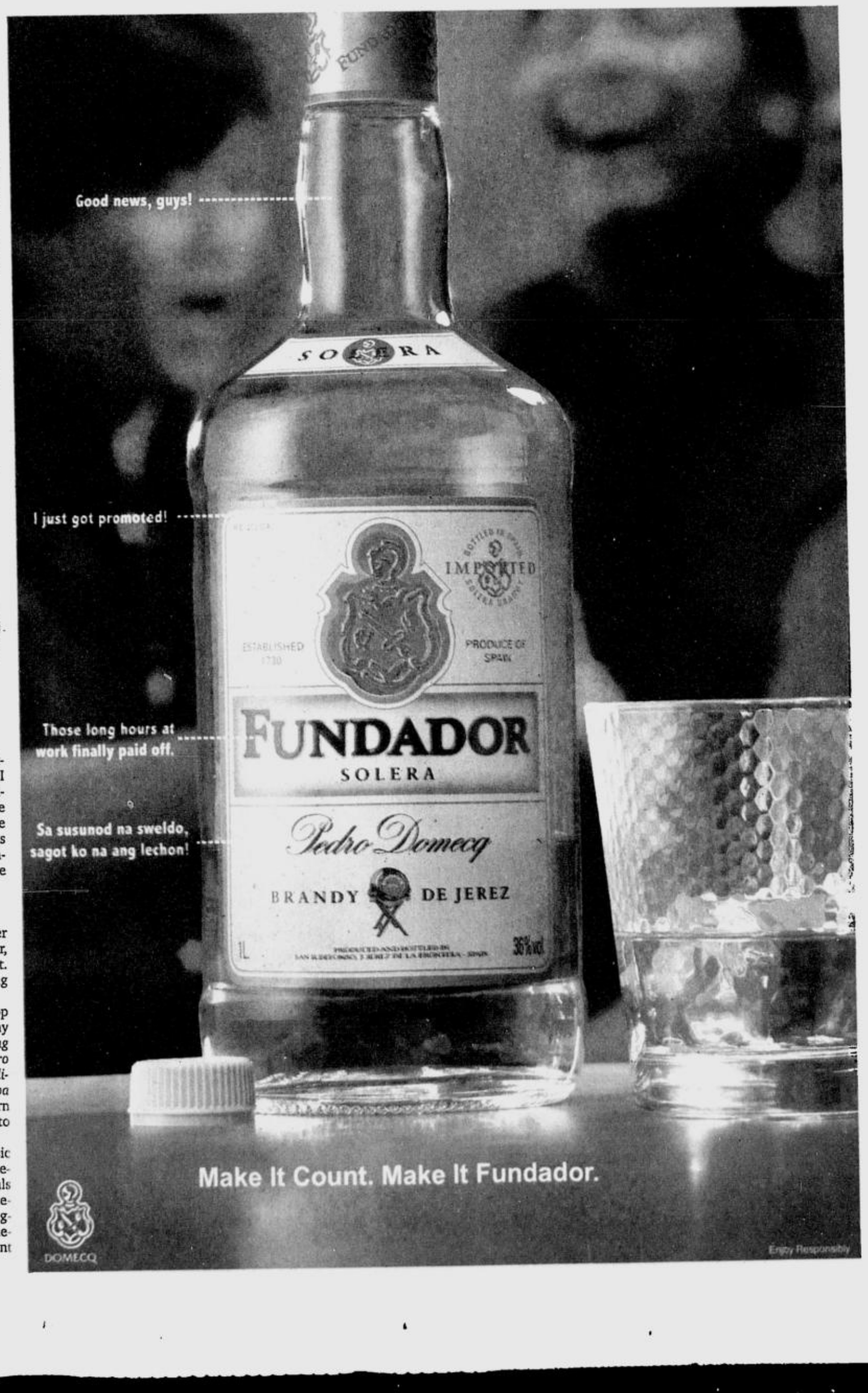
We observe that Michiko has a strong and deep affiliation with children. She explains, "I like writing stories about children because I like how they think. They are intelligent and they can see things we adults cannot, because they are still innocent. Their perspective is still fresh and their mindset is simple. They don't like to complicate things like we adults do."

Director's chair

Michiko and producer-writer Raymond Lee tapped a director, Aureaus Solito, for this project. But soon, she hopes to be sitting in the director's chair herself.

She shares, "I want to develop some of my ideas and direct my own scripts. Now I know why *ang daming* writer-directors. *Siguro na*-frustrate *sila dahil may nagdirek ng* script *nila pero ibang-iba yung lumabas.* I want to learn how to direct but I don't want to rush *it.*"

In the meantime, the basic premise of a homosexual boy belonging to a family of criminals and falling in love with a policeman is worth seeing in "Pagdadalaga," at the coming Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.



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SATURDAY Special

Billy Idol bounces back

IDOL. Hasn't lost his fist-pumping edge.

NEW YORK—Few musicians can boast the level of success that Billy Idol attained in the '80s and early '90s. Unfortunately, the "live hard and die young" punk rock ethos doesn't come with a middle-age survival guide.

"When you're young, you never think you'll soon be a 50-year-old singer rocking out with the young bands," Idol told The Associated Press. That's exactly what Idol, 49, hopes to be doing next year.

The pop-punk patriarch has just released "Devil's Playground," his first full-length album since 1993's unremarkable "Cyberpunk." With five million-sellers under his belt, Idol hopes "Playground" will return him to the top of the charts.

Reasons

While not completely off the radar in the last decade (he appeared in the stage production of "Quadrophenia," and in the film, "The Wedding Singer," in addition to some soundtrack work), there were reasons for his lack of original material.

"I had kids (teenage son Willem Wolfe and daughter Bonnie Blue) and laid back during all the grunge stuff," recalls Idol, still platinum blond. "I thought, 'God, how can I compete with that?' "

But the Seattle sound wasn't the only force demolishing rock icons. After a near-fatal motorcycle accident and a series of overdoses, it was clear that the then-bandless Brit was on his own path to self-destruction.

After some soul searching and painstaking psychical rehabilitation, Idol turned to his bike to regroup: "I started to take my motorcycle on long rides, and I met my bass player (Stephen McGrath). We played at biker bars, and that experience took me out of myself."

Greatest hits

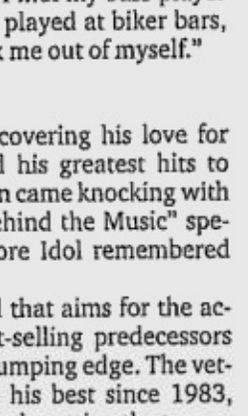
While Idol was rediscovering his love for the stage, EMI released his greatest hits to platinum sales. VH1 soon came knocking with "Storytellers" and a "Behind the Music" special. It wasn't long before Idol remembered his calling.

The result is a record that aims for the accessibility of Idol's best-selling predecessors without losing his fist-pumping edge. The veteran considers it to be his best since 1983, with the album's first single setting the tone.

"'Scream' is 20 years older than "Rebel Yell" and it's storming out of the speakers," he barks, punctuating his sentence with a howl. "Everybody is trying to make a comeback, I know," he smirks. "With what's going on in the world, people want a sense of fun 'cause they are concerned. Maybe, it's not so bad if I can provide them with that!" *AP*

Cocoy Laurel on Doy, Monique and Nora Aunor

By Rito P. Asilo



LAUREL. Rare performance.

FANS of Cocoy Laurel are in for a rare treat when the acclaimed stage and film actor performs in Monique Wilson's concert, "Monique Wilson: 25 Years in the Theater," tonight at 9 at the Music Museum. (Call 896-5497.)

We worked closely with the multi-talented actor five years ago, before we made our professional directorial debut for New Voice, when we were asked to co-direct with him a special staging of "The King and I" for the annual Laurel clan reunion show at the Manila Polo Club. To say the least, the experience was a heady and memorable one for us—for obvious reasons:

Impressive cast

The impressive cast featured *Tita* Celia Diaz Laurel as Anna and the former Vice President himself, *Tito* Doy, who surprised us with his sterling performance as the King!

In fact, the talented clan had to "adopt" us when we pitched in at the last minute for an unavailable cast member to sing the role of Lun Tha opposite the beautiful Iwi Laurel's Tup Tim! (For next year's "Lahi" show, *Tita* Celia and Cocoy are staging another well-loved classic, "Kismet.")

Despite the limited time to chat with Cocoy during lulls at the rigorous rehearsals for the concert, we were fortunate to have spent some time to discuss matters that concern family, friends and career, like *Tito* Doy and *Tita* Celia's highly anticipated, tell-all book about the life and times of Doy Laurel, who succumbed to cancer last year. ("We wanted to record dad's legacy as a father, husband, politician and person. Everything will be revealed in it, political betrayals and all.")

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This 'Ring' plods on from beginning to end

By Noelani Torre

YOU can't help but compare "Ring of the Nibelungs" to "Lord of the Rings." It's an association that the former encourages after all—what with its touting itself to be based on the German epic poem that inspired "Rings" author J. R. R. Tolkien.

The makers of "Ring of the Nibelungs" no doubt thought to benefit from jumping on the LOTR bandwagon, but though it would initially attract the fantasy crowd, in the end, not even the most avid fantasy fan can consider this wannabe epic to be anything more than a disappointment.

This German production—though the language is English—features such fantasy elements as dragons, magical love potions, swords with names, a cursed ring, an invincible hero with one weak spot, and so on.

"Ring" fails to hold the audience's attention, however, despite the presence of those existing elements, and the fact that it is based on the "Das Nibelungenlied" (which also inspired Richard Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" cycle), a tale rife with enough human drama and action for 10 fantasy epics.

LOKEN (TOP), VON SYDOW (ABOVE LEFT) AND FURMANN. Topbill Uli Edel's German epic.

Wooden script

Burdened with a wooden script ("Be patient, child, Odin's powers are in the runes—but they won't be rushed"), lackluster acting and unspectacular special effects, the movie does nothing more than plod on.

Playing the main role of Siegfried, the dragon-slayer (previously Eric, the blacksmith) is German actor Benno Fürmann ("The Sin Eater"), who lavished us with a performance as exciting as warmed-over toast.

Blessed with a grating voice, a blinding refrigerator-white smile, and nothing much in the talent department, he was obviously meant to remind us of Viggo Mortensen's character in LOTR. We *did* make the connection, but we're being kind when we say that he suffers in the comparison.

Impressive

Reprising her warrior-woman role from "Terminator 3," Kristianna Løken plays Brunhild, queen of Iceland, and betrayed lover of Siegfried. She's rather impressive—when she's around, you hardly notice the supposed star of the show.

Other familiar faces lurking around are British actor Julian Sands and Swedish actor Max von Sydow. You'll probably recognize Sands from "A Room With a View" and for his "Warlock" movies, and the latter has worked with directors like Ingmar Bergman and Wim Wenders (he played Jesus Christ in "The Greatest Story Ever Told"). One wonders what they're doing in a made-for-TV film that never should have gone to the big screen.

If you're still bent on watching this film, however, you might want to keep an eye out for Robert Pattinson (Giselher, King Gunther's brother), who's playing Cedric Diggory in the fifth Harry Potter installment, "Goblet of Fire."

Love, incest and childhood dreams at Cannes

PARIS—Love, incest and childhood dreams will be some of the themes in movies to be screened at Cannes' Director's Fortnight next month, organizers said recently.

Some 21 feature-length films from countries as diverse as Australia, Britain, Georgia, Iran, Norway, Singapore and South Korea will be shown at the out-of-competition show on the sidelines of the May 11-22 Cannes festival.

Fantasies

The Japanese film, "The Buried Forest," by Kohei Oguri will open this year's selection, organiser Olivier Pere said. The film, in which childhood fantasies begin to invade adult realities, is also competing in the "Un Certain Regard" section of the Cannes festival.

Pere said the organizers had decided the film should be screened in both sections "because of the exceptional admiration and enthusiasm we share for it." Launched in the late 1960s by *avant garde* directors such as Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut, the Director's Fortnight puts the accent on discovering new and groundbreaking talent.

It can boast having helped propel to fame high-flyers such as Stephen Frears, Nagisa Oshima, Martin Scorsese and Wim Wenders, who is competing this year for the Palme d'Or, the first time since 1997.

Debut

Three of the feature-length films are debut directorial efforts, and 12 of them will be shown as world premieres, including a second Japanese film, by Mitsuo Yanagimachi, "Who's Camus Anyway?"

Fourteen short films will be shown at the fringe festival, which will be dedicated to the memory of French producer Humbert Balsan, who committed suicide in Paris last February at age 50.

There will be special screenings of the Italian film, "Family Diary," by Valerio Zurlini and Sam Peckinpah's "Ride the High Country," both of which were made in 1962. *AFP*

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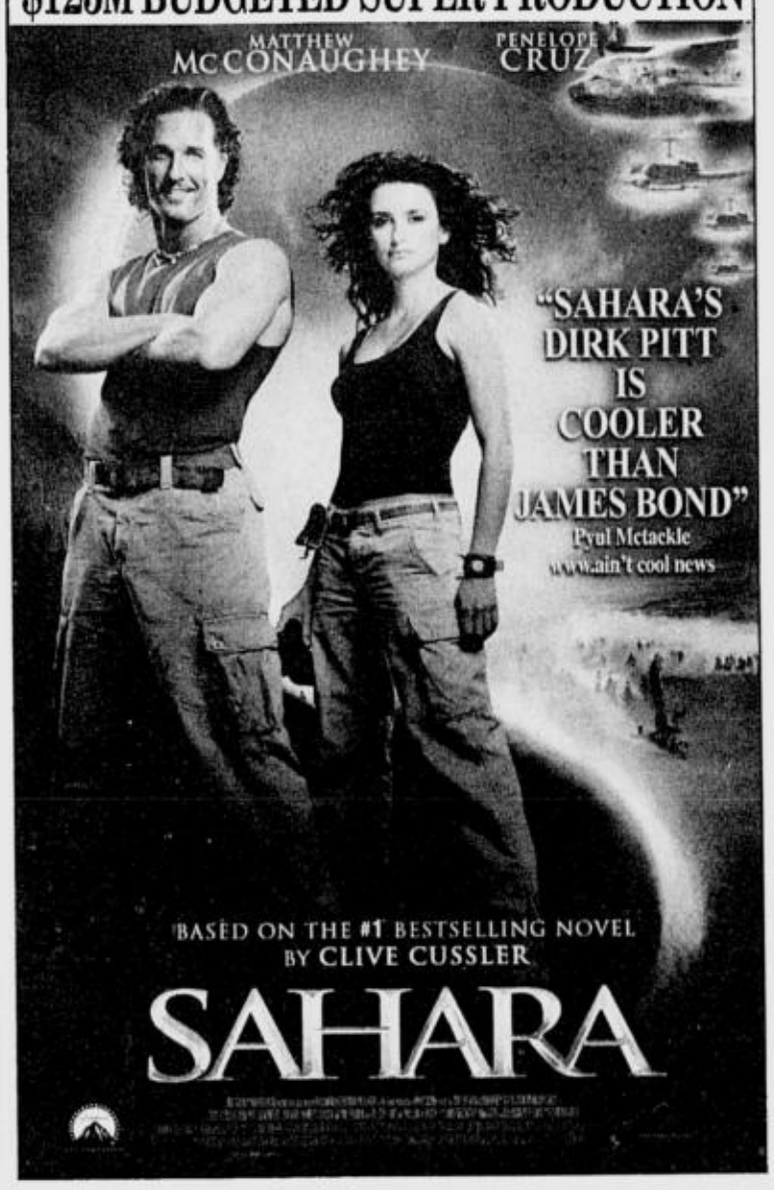

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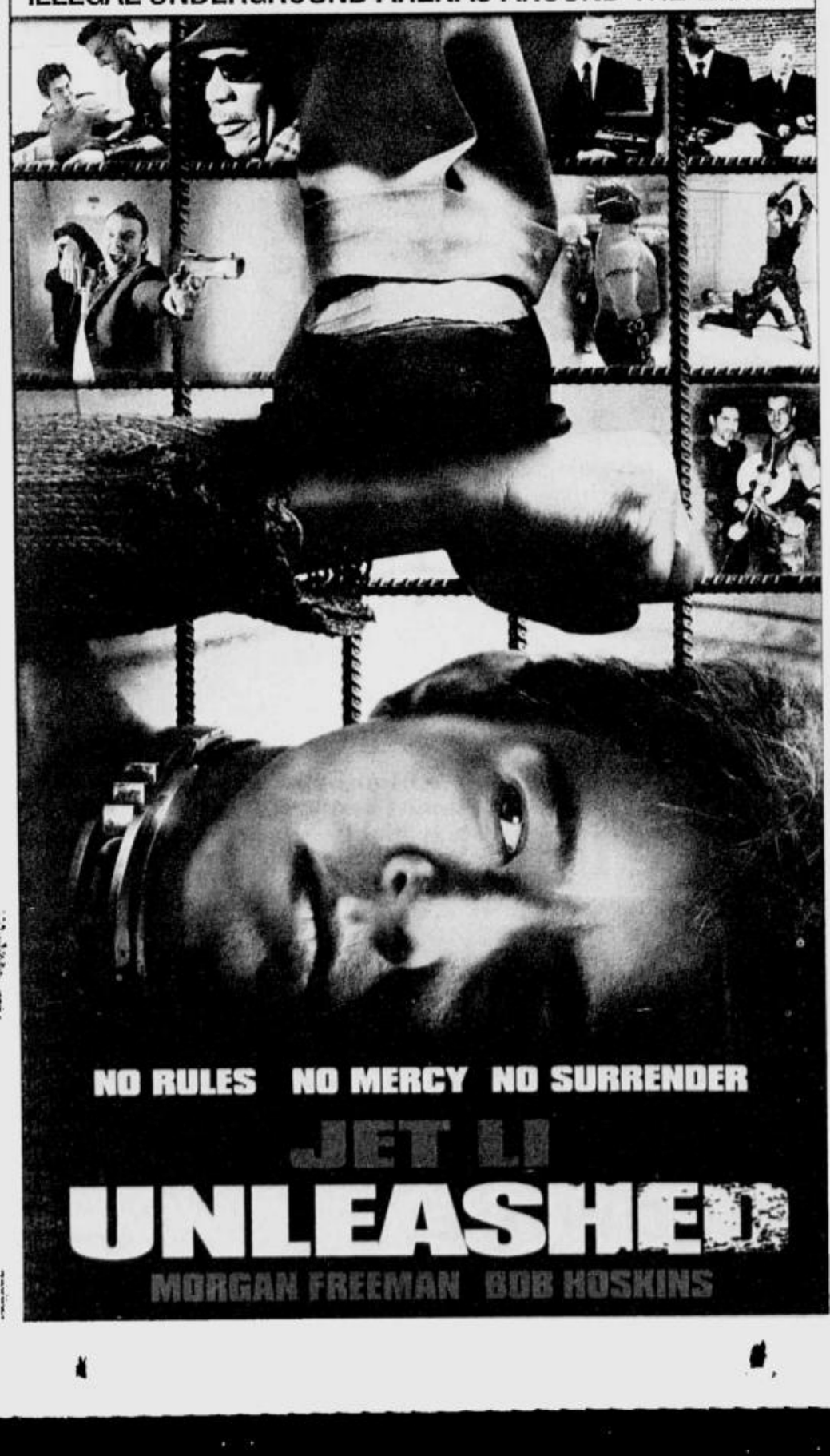

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THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY

'Teaching' films to hone cinematic sensibilities listed

By Nestor U. Torre

SO YOU want to get a film education but can't afford to take a formal course? If you're *really* serious and resourceful, you can give yourself a good education in film theory and practice. Here's how:

The big deal is for you to truly understand film language, how the medium of the cinema is different from the other arts, TV, radio, etc.

This, by the way, is not easy to understand, even for people who take formal courses, because it requires you to (temporarily) forget the communication "crutches" that served you so well in the past, and which you have come to love.

Eloquent and powerful

These include truly wonderful communicative and expressive arts like literature and theater, which are eloquent and powerful in their own right.

Trouble is, they aren't film, and if we hold on to them, we can't get to understand the newer medium of the cinema for what it is, and thus can't appreciate its unique power fully enough to be able to dynamically use it to tell your own stories.

So, how do you get to understand film as film, and not just as a new expression of older communicative arts? There are a lot of books on film theory that you can read in school or embassy libraries.

As for film practice, nothing beats exposing yourself to the best movies ever made. Some of them are available on cable TV, so you can start there.

Classics

In time, however, you need to go back to the more significant and seminal film classics. Here's a list of some of the important "teaching" films that have helped hone young filmmakers' cinematic sensibilities through the years, to guide you in your self-education:

"A Trip to the Moon" by George Melies, 1902. "The Great Train Robbery" by Edwin Porter, 1903. "The Birth of A Nation" by D.W. Griffith, 1915. "Intolerance" by D.W. Griffith, 1916. "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" by Robert Wiene, 1919. "Dr. Mabuse" Parts 1 and 2, by Fritz Lang, 1922.

"Nanook of the North" by Robert Flaherty, 1922. "Greed" by Erich von Stroheim, 1924. "The Battleship Potemkin" by Eisenstein, 1925. "The Gold Rush" by Charlie Chaplin, 1925. "Metropolis" by Fritz Lang, 1927. "The Jazz Singer" by Alan Crosland, 1927.

'The Blue Angel'

"Un Chien Andalou" by Luis Buñuel, 1928. "Storm Over Asia" by Pudovkin, 1928. "The Blue Angel" by Josef von Sternberg, 1930. "The Age of Gold" by Luis Buñuel, 1930. "Earth" by Aleksandr Dovzhenko, 1930. "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Lewis Milestone, 1930.

"A Nous La Liberté" by René Clair, 1931. "Le Million" by René Clair, 1931. "City Lights" by Charlie Chaplin, 1931. "Freaks" by Tod Browning, 1932. "Zéro de Conduite" by Jean Vigo, 1933. "42nd Street" by Lloyd Bacon, 1933. "Queen Christina" by Rouben Mamoulian, 1933. "Triumph of the Will" by Leni Riefenstahl, 1934.

"L' Atalante" by Jean Vigo, 1934. "Modern Times" by Charlie Chaplin, 1936. "Camille" by George Cukor, 1936. "La Grande Illusion" by Jean Renoir, 1937. "The Wizard of Oz" by Victor Fleming, 1939. "Gone with the Wind" by Victor Fleming, George Cukor, 1939.

Director Sydney Pollack's ideas behind the glitz

LONDON—Sydney Pollack's movies like "Three Days of the Condor" glorify tormented individuals fighting an oppressive system—a reflection of the 70-year-old director's own conflicted relationship with Hollywood.

Making movies defines his very existence and has served as an outlet for the gloomier aspects of his personality, Pollack told Reuters in an interview.

But he has been forced to explore such thoughtful conflicts covertly to satisfy an American filmmaking culture focused more on glitz than ideology.

POLLACK. Likes ruminating over difficult themes.

System

"I'm in the habit of trying to protect the commercial aspects of a movie because of the system I work in," Pollack said while in London to promote his political thriller "The Interpreter" starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn.

"For better or for worse, I got stuck in the swimming pool of mainstream Hollywood, where you make expensive movies that are supposed to reach as many people as possible with big movie stars who make a lot of money and marketing costs that are enormous," he said.

"You scare people if you talk about serious ideas, so I don't talk much about the ideas of a movie." That doesn't mean they aren't there.

"The Interpreter" questions whether diplomacy is a viable alternative to violence, just as Pollack's 1975 thriller "Three Days of the Condor" took a paranoid swipe at the government and his 1982 comedy hit "Tootsie" subversively probed how men and women relate to each other.

The complex philosophies underlying Pollack's blockbusters are in part the result of his having had to cope with his mother dying when he was 16, and the death of his only son in a plane crash in 1993.

"Tragedy, grief, whatever, is a big, big, big part of life to me," Pollack said. "I know that I'm drawn to it." So much so, in fact, that he said he often forces himself to pull back from becoming too dark. He seeks refuge by producing independent films like "Searching for Bobby Fischer", and "Sense and Sensibility" with his company, Mirage, and by directing such lighter fare as "Tootsie" and "Sabrina."

Daughters

"My two daughters beat me up all the time about it—'Don't get melancholy in this movie, Dad, don't get maudlin.' I have a tendency to do that and so I try to fight against it," Pollack said.

Still, Pollack, whose 1985 drama "Out of Africa" won seven Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director, ruminates over difficult themes, fascinated by the fact that over the millennia men and women still haven't managed to figure each other out and that people can't stop killing each other.

"It knocks my brains out that it's 2005 and we're doing the exact same things we did before," he said. "We are no better off than we were at the Inquisition. It's crazy." *Reuters*

Andy Lau introduces six promising Chinese film artists

By Nestor U. Torre

LAU. His production company will oversee filming and marketing of Asian movies.

THE Star Chinese Movies channel has launched "Focus: First Cuts," a regional film project in which six Chinese-language movies by new filmmakers will be produced in high definition (HD) technology, and will be shown on the cable channel this October.

Andy Lau's Focus Films will oversee the production and sales of six feature films. The six first-time directors in "Focus: First Cuts" are Hong Kong's Wong Ching Po, Lee Kung Lok and Lam Tze Chung, Malaysia's Ho Yuhang, Singapore's Kevin Tong, Taiwan's Robin Lee, and a director from Mainland China.

Concern

Lau, who has appeared in more than 120 movies, is known for his support of new filmmakers. His concern is shared by the Star network, which is to be credited for providing the TV venue for the young directors' works to be seen by a wide audience.

WONG. From music videos to full-length movies.

Wong won the Gold Award for "First Love and Other Pains" at the Eighth Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards. Lu has worked as assistant director in television studios, and in the Hong Kong film industry.

Career

Lam started his career as a screenwriter and worked on "Shaolin Soccer," the highest grossing Hong Kong movie in history. He's also acted as a comedian in films.

Ho shot an award-winning documentary, "Semangat Insau: Masters of Tradition." He then wrote and directed the telefeature, "Min," for a Malaysian TV station, and the film won at the Nantes Festival of Three Continents in France.

Fipresci prize

Tong's first short film, "Moveable Feast," won the best short film award at the Singapore International Film Festival in 1996. His feature film, "Eating Air," copped the Fipresci prize at the Stockholm International Film Festival.

And Lee has written scripts that have won awards in Taiwan. Her short film, "The Magical Wash Machine," won at the Golden Horse Film Awards.

The new filmmakers will start shooting their movies for "Focus: First Cuts" this July.

TONG. Directed award-winning Singaporean feature, "Eating Air."

Commitment to education

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FOR over 40 years, the Esteban International School (EIS) has engaged in the holistic development of children in their most sensitive, formative years, believing that it is in this crucial period that individuals acquire their passion—or aversion—for learning.

Its founder, Eleanor Powell-Esteban, believes that, given a nurturing environment and the proper motivation, a child can grow up to be a lifelong learner.

Foundation

"The pre-school and elementary levels form the foundation of how a person is likely to become," says Christine Esteban-Norton, pre-school principal of the EIS Makati campus. "This is the stage when an individual develops his values, level of confidence, discipline, study habits, how he articulates himself, and the pace with which he develops skills. It's a period of self-discovery."

At the Esteban International School, children as young as one year old are already introduced to the joys of education via programs specifically designed for tots. They are encouraged to interact closely with classmates in order to develop social and communication skills.

Academic excellence

While academic excellence heads the list of desired qualities every EIS pupil is expected to attain, the development of life skills and proper values remain at the heart of this progressive institution.

With a healthy mix of Filipino and foreign students attending its campuses in Makati, Alabang and Taguig, the EIS prides itself with its students educated in the International Baccalaureate (IBO) method of inquiry, which emphasizes that learning should be relevant, experiential and enjoyable.

And while students are graded to conform to national academic standards, parents don't just receive their child's report card and meet with teachers. Instead, they are invited to attend a three-way evaluation session, where the student himself leads the discussion on how he is performing in class! Call 844-9913.

ESTEBAN (WITH LENA, LEFT, AND CHRISTINE). Nurturing environment for children.

New filmmaker introduced in digital feature

By Rica Arevalo

ATO M. Bautista's digital film debut, "Sa Aking Pagkakagising Mula sa Kamulatan" (My Awakening from Consciousness), is worth the price of admission. It opens commercially at Glorietta 1on May 5.

The film is gritty, violent, but quiet. The calm voice of the narrator and its music balance the unapologetic, sadistic characters' dialogue. Bam, a colorful gay beautician, sums up the gang in the film: *"Mga binatang walang kinabuksan."*

We follow Pogi (Ketchup Eusebio) and his gang (Cholo Barreto, Empoy Marquez and Hector Macaso) as they maul Rey (Carlo Aquino), and leave him bloodied and unconscious.

Angel (Luanne Dy) ignites Pogi's violent streak when she toys with his feelings during a fateful cab ride.

Habitues

The characters in the film are like your everyday neighborhood habitues—the street toughies, rival beauticians, promiscuous students, masochistic cops, over-protective fathers, cell phone snatchers, and the drinking bums at your favorite *tindahan*.

Bautista is daring in his storytelling style and visual technique. Although his constant use of full shots lessens the emotional angst of the story, he manages to engage the audience to understand the dilemma of youth.

He is a promising director, but he must remember that "few are called and fewer are chosen."

Penned by Shugo Praico, the nonlinear narrative is effective even if the subject matter is passé. Odie Flores' lighting and camerawork are commendable, but you could be distracted by the shape of a lens adaptor, projected on the big screen. You wonder if its an intended effect or an error in the production. . .

Premiere night

At the premiere night, Bautista shared, *"Isa lang 'tong panaginip dati. Mapalad ako dahil nagkatotoo ito dahil sa* digital filmmaking. *'Di hamak mas mura at magaan gamitin. Gustuhin ko mang gumamit ng* celluloid *para maibahagi ang aking kwento tulad ng nakasanayan, masyado na itong mahal."*

So, come along for the ride on the surging digital wave!

Cocoy Laurel on Doy . . .

From page A4-1

And Cocoy's highly acclaimed turn as The Engineer in "Miss Saigon" in Australia. ("Preparing for the role was the singular most difficult thing I had to go through as an actor—but, God was with me through the whole experience, and it was worth it!").

Also, his return to the legitimate stage in Repertory Philippines' restaging of "Man of La Mancha" (from which "The Impossible Dream" was culled) in November. And, yes, Nora Aunor.

Endearing humility

Cocoy, who blows us away with his endearing humility and kindness, is not active in the performing arts nowadays. We told him what a pity it is for the Filipino audience to experience merely occasional glimpses of his enviable thespic skills as actor, singer and dancer. He only performs in special religious functions, and for friends he can't say no to:

Before Monique's special concert, his last public performance was at Nora's special show for her fans at the Folk Arts Theater last year, before the Superstar embarked on her controversial US sojourn.

What convinced him to do Rep's "La Mancha"? "*Tita* Bibot (Amador) asked me to commit to the project on her death bed. I'm doing it for her," he explains.

His return to the Repertory stage is highly anticipated because his last stage outings ("Camelot," "South Pacific") had been in the '90s—after his triumphant stint with "Miss Saigon."

Memory lane

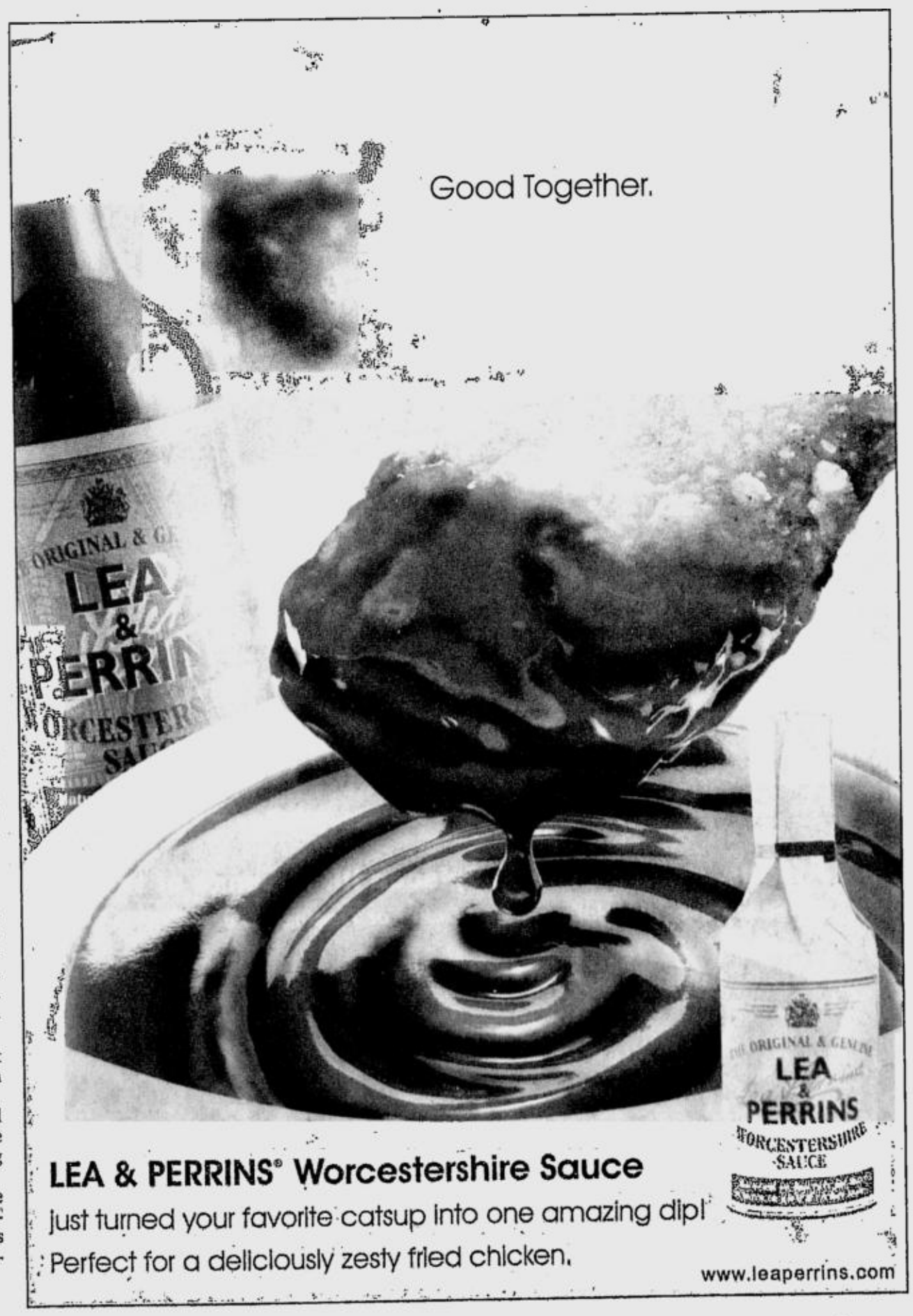
At Monique's concert tonight, he will walk down memory lane when he sings a special medley of Andrew Lloyd Webber songs with the actress. He remembers a precocious Monique singing "Tomorrow" in the Laurel household. The two theater thespians had acted together in countless Rep productions, like "A Chorus Line," "Annie" and "Evita."

These days, Cocoy is praying hard for the swift resolution of dear friend Nora's drug-related case in the US. He believes she's innocent.

He insists: "I know Guy. She's a good person, and she is not stupid. She may have weaknesses, but she is not daft. There's something about the whole thing that just doesn't seem right.

"We have to pray for her, and encourage her to be strong. In her lifetime, she has inspired so many Filipinos with her countless contributions to cinema and the arts. She deserves our support—now, more than ever!"

We're sure *Ate* Guy's fans agree!



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Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

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BSP sees 7-7.3% inflation this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday projected that the country's average inflation this year would shoot up to 7-7.3 percent, much higher than the official target range of 5-6 percent, due to higher oil and utility prices as well as possible wage increases.

In a press briefing yesterday, BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said for the month of April, inflation would likely hit 8.1-8.6 percent from a year ago. In March, annual inflation rate stood at 8.5 percent.

He said the "baseline" forecast of 7-7.3 percent for the full year discounted three major factors—an average global oil price of up to $44.98 a barrel, a 36-centavo increase in the tariff rate of National Power Corp., and a 6-percent upward adjustment in wages.

The latest baseline projection was an upward revision of the BSP's earlier full-year forecast of 6.8-7 percent.

"Inflation is likely to remain above target this year but should decline by 2006," Guinigundo said.

He said the latest forecast was that inflation rate for next year would range between 4.4 and 4.9 percent.

Guinigundo said there were other risks to the baseline inflation forecast this year, particularly if oil prices, electricity charges as well as wage and transport adjustments went beyond assumed levels.

There were other risks from possible exchange rate volatility and the impact of a planned increase in the value-added tax. A 2-percentage point increase in the VAT as proposed by Malacañang will add 0.35 percentage point to the inflation rate, Guinigundo noted.

"There's evidence that cost-side influence is already feeding into inflationary expectations. This increases the risk that inflationary expectations may become disanchored," Guinigundo said.

He said the main concern for monetary authorities was the impact of looming pressures on wages and price-setting.

"The petition for wage and transport fare hikes, if granted, would constitute second-round effects that could require monetary adjustment," Guinigundo said.

For the first time in nearly five years, the Monetary Board raised its key overnight rates by 25 basis points last month to ward off further inflationary pressures from skyrocketing global oil prices.

The overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate was increased to 7 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate to 9.25 percent as a "preemptive move."

BSP Officer in Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said the impact of "second-round" inflation from wage adjustments was what the Monetary Board would closely monitor.

He said demand-pull inflation was still manageable while another possible trigger for monetary tightening—foreign exchange pressures—was also not worrisome as the peso's volatility against the US dollar had gone down.

"Policy action will be considered if there is strong evidence of demand-side effects arising from supply shocks, particularly in terms of adjustments in nominal wage rates in excess of losses in purchasing power," Tetangco said.

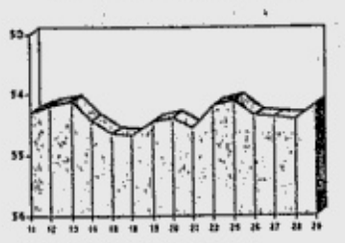
"Significant monetary tightening does not appear justified at present given the prevailing inflation outlook, continuing presence of a slack in the economy and indications of possible moderation in output growth," Tetangco said.

"Although these conditions may change, any future monetary policy action should be geared toward steering inflation expectations in the right direction rather than dampening demand-side impulses," he said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱54.16 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 29, 2005

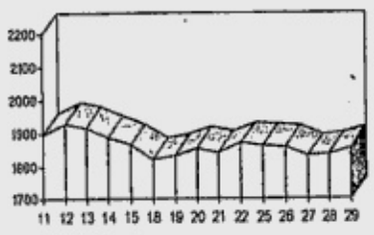
¥105.87 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 28, 2005

GOLD: $432.80-433.30
per ounce Hong Kong, April 29, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end 0.9% higher on bargain hunting

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARES closed higher yesterday, lifted by investors hunting for bargains to dress up their portfolio before month's end.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended 16.47 points, or 0.9 percent, higher at 1,854.63, after rising 7.84 points on Thursday to 1,838.16.

Financial markets will be closed Monday, declared a national holiday for post-Labor Day celebrations.

The broader All Shares Index rose 12.49 points to 1,137.27, rebounding from a 1.36-point loss Thursday.

Even as shares remained at oversold levels, analysts said investors were not likely to return to the market in droves until Congress breaks the impasse over revisions to the value-added tax—the main tax bill proposed by the Arroyo administration to balance the budget by 2010.

Investors boosted share prices to multi-year highs earlier this year on expectations of steady progress in fiscal reforms after the passage of two tax reform bills late last year.

Another concern for the market was Labor Day rallies scheduled for Sunday. Police have stepped up security in Manila to prevent violence.

Leading advancers were Ayala Corp., which rose 2 percent to P6.90, its units Ayala Land, up 2 percent at P7.80, and Manila Water, climbing 3.4 percent to P6.10.

Ayala Land posted a sharp rise in first-quarter net profit Thursday on higher sales and one-off gains, while Manila Water has joined a consortium considering taking over Maynilad Water Services Inc.—the other water concessionaire in Metro Manila. *AP*

RP to seek IMF, World Bank help

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES, together with other developing countries belonging to the so-called Group of 24 (G-24), sought for more assistance from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to squarely address their debt-related problems.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, one of the Philippine representatives to the 2005 Spring Meeting organized by the IMF and the World Bank in Washington last week, said one of the resolutions made by the G-24 was to call for an improvement in the multilateral donors' financing and development agenda.

The G-24 is the organization that coordinates the positions of developing countries on international monetary and development finance issues to ensure their interests are adequately represented in negotiations on international monetary matters. The group was established in 1971.

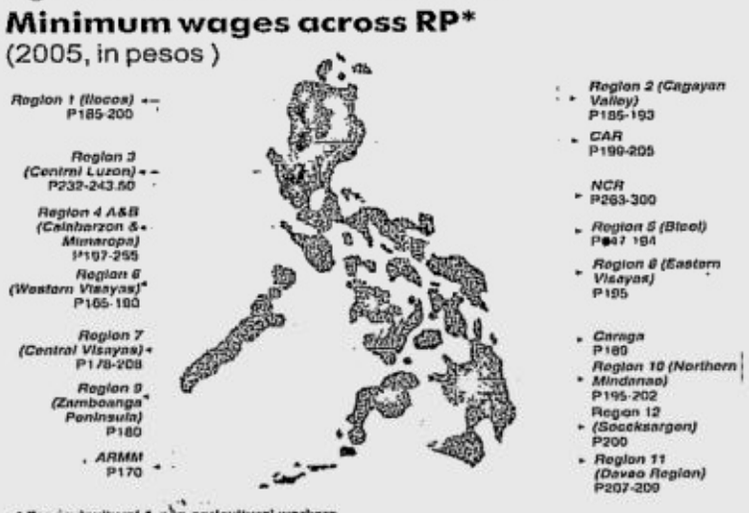
"Our constituency, led by Brazil, brought up the issue of assisting and providing more support for middle-income countries. The support we (the Philip-

RP/ B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

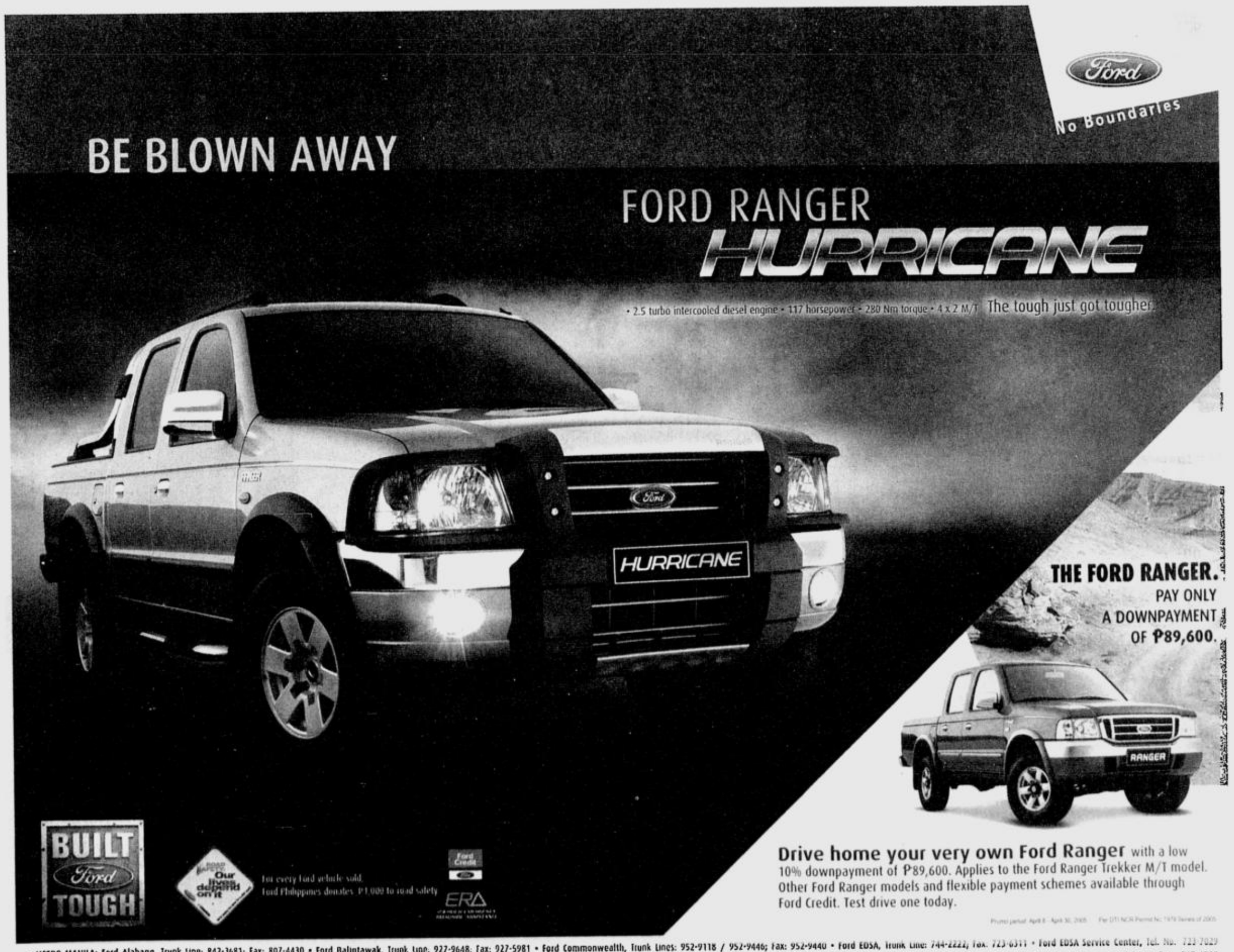
Minimum wages across RP*
(2005, in pesos)



* For agricultural & non-agricultural workers
Sources: Department of Labor & Employment-National Wages & Productivity Commission

MINIMUM wage is the sum payable to a worker for work performed or service rendered within a given period. It cannot be reduced by individual or collective agreement and is guaranteed by law. It may be fixed to cover the minimum needs of the worker and his or her family in light of national economic and social conditions.

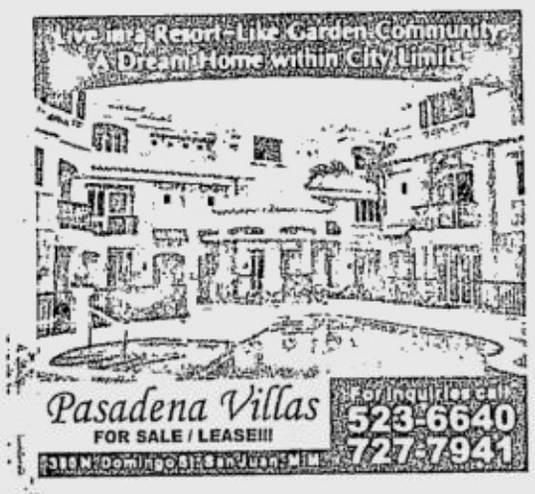
Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research



PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 29, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	25	26	25	26	414,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47.5	48	189,800
China Banking Corp.	660	670	660	670	1,860
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	2,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.64	0.66	1,370,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46	47	46	47	66,200
International Exch. Bank	18	18	18	18	173,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	441,500
Philippine National Bank	29	33	29	33	56,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	26.5	26.5	35,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2440	2450	2440	2450	640
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	216,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1620	1645	1620	1645	1,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	131,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.08	1	1.08	4,400,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	815	810	810	83,760
Ipeople Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	36,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	3,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.1	3	3.1	3,029,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	42,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1390	1390	1375	1380	294,260
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	40,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.5	16	16.5	9,500
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22.25	22	22.25	126,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	4,365,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.25	407,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.78	313,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6.8	7.3	6.8	7.3	1,042,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.54	1,170,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.75	2.6	2.75	844,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	170,100
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57	58	107,200
San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	83	82	83	184,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,760,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.9	10,130,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.25	4.4	4.25	4.4	84,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.031	47,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.86	1.94	599,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	1,100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	15,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	7,420,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.97	0.91	0.96	26,210,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.28	7,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.7	2.55	2.6	9,249,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.049	0.049	0.045	0.045	1,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43	139,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.08	0.0875	0.08	0.085	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
J.G Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	165,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.28	2,603,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.35	113,080,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	250	1,220,350
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.22	4,860,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.2	0.135	0.2	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	4,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.46	1.36	1.46	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.8	0.91	0.8	0.91	110,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	2,180,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.2	1.04	1.18	20,681,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	11	11	11	11	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	90,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.54	1.46	1.52	869,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.25	13.5	13	13	761,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	5,273,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.89	40,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	4,850,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,820,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	5,713,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3	102,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	270,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	40,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	930,000
SM Development Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	104,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.4	10,560,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	30,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.2	9.4	9	9	117,000
Benguet Corp. B	29.5	32	29.5	32	26,300
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	4,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	7,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.021	81,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	43,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	3,035,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	33	33.5	33	33	4,219,200
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	80,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	20,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.165	13,260,000



DISCLOSURES

PRUDENTIAL Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 18, 4 p.m. at the bank's 3/F boardroom, Prudential Bank Building, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of April 5 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

EURO-MED Laboratories Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 18, 10 a.m. at the Quezon Hall of Philippine Columbian Association, Paco, Manila. Only stockholders of record as of April 18 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. denied having any information to explain the drop in its share prices which fell to P0.78 from P1.30 each.

***

ELECTED directors of **Asian Terminals Inc.** were Richard Barclay, Jeremy Rickcord, Colin Childs, Arturo Lopez, Remy Tigulo, Eusebio Tanco, Nicholas West, Nilo Pena, Ramon Atayde and Plaridel Garcia. The company also declared a cash dividend of P0.16 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of May 27 and will be payable on or before June 21.

***

VITARICH Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 24 with record date on May 23. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

RP to seek IMF . . .

From page B1

pines) hope to get is something to relieve the countries of problems related to their fiscal sectors," Tan said in a press briefing.

Earlier, the Department of Finance said the kind of support it wished to get from the World Bank and other foreign lenders was a refinancing type.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima earlier said the DOF intended to ask the World Bank and the IMF to provide refinancing assistance to the Philippines if the country improved its revenue collection to 16 percent of gross domestic product. The Philippines government's revenue-to-GDP ratio currently stands at only 13.5 percent.

Under the DOF's proposed assistance by the IMF and the World Bank, the two foreign lenders will be the one to source loans that will be used to pay off some of the government's maturing obligations. The foreign lenders, since they possess triple-A credit standing, will be able to source loans at a much cheaper cost.

The Philippines will then pay the foreign lenders, but at a concessional or low interest rate.

The savings that the Philippines will be able to make from this refinancing program will then be used to fund capital expenditure projects, such as infrastructure.

Purisima said it was important to create savings from capital outlay projects because any revenues to be generated by the government from its fiscal reform programs would mostly be used only to reduce the government's budget deficit.

CURRENCIES

April 29, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.775434	1.000000	54.3540
Japan	Yen	0.007312	0.009430	0.5126
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478210	1.906300	103.6150
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099430	0.128225	6.9695
Switzerland	Franc	0.650096	0.838364	45.5684
Canada	Dollar	0.619703	0.799169	43.4380
Singapore	Dollar	0.471217	0.607681	33.0299
Australia	Dollar	0.604156	0.779120	42.3483
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.056964	2.652661	144.1827
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.206783	0.266667	14.4944
Brunei	Dollar	0.469789	0.605840	32.9298
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000104	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019567	0.025233	1.3715
UAE	Dirham	0.211134	0.272279	14.7995
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.289600	70.0949
Argentina	Peso	0.267161	0.344531	18.7266
Brazil	Real	0.307103	0.396040	21.5264
Denmark	Kroner	0.134304	0.173199	9.4141
India	Rupee	0.017753	0.022894	1.2444
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204089	0.263193	14.3056
Mexico	New Peso	0.069531	0.089667	4.8738
New Zealand	Dollar	0.564691	0.728226	39.5820
Norway	Kroner	0.122907	0.158501	8.6152
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013048	0.016827	0.9146
South Africa	Rand	0.127025	0.163811	8.9038
Korea	Won	0.000774	0.000998	0.0542
Sweden	Kroner	0.109161	0.140774	7.6516
Syria	Pound	0.014938	0.019264	1.0471
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024758	0.031928	1.7354
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000361	0.000466	0.0253

Manila FAME books $64M in orders

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE APRIL edition of the Manila FAME International posted a total of $64.32 million in sales with at least 3,400 foreign and local buyers visiting the biannual event, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Data from the DTI showed that total booked orders amounted to $27.7 million while total negotiated sales reached $36.6 million.

The value of this year's orders, however, was down slightly by 3 percent from last year's $66.3 million, due mainly to competition from China.

The top three buyers in this year's Manila FAME include one from Europe with $12.8 million worth of orders, another from Asia with $5.2 million and a third from the United States with $4.8 million.

"The results show that both our traditional and new buyers continue to view the Philippines as a source of design and quality export products, and that our efforts to create a niche and to innovate are paying off," Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said.

Organized by DTI's export promotion arm, Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), Manila FAME is the country's biggest trade show on home furnishings, gifts and holiday décor as well as fashion accessories.

Manila FAME is held every April and October. The last one was held April 18-21 at the World Trade Center.

Santos said Manila FAME has become a big help to small and medium enterprises wanting to expand their markets and establish arrangements with local and foreign buyers.

He said at least 500 local exhibitors joined the latest Manila FAME, and another 23 foreign exhibitors including those sponsored by the Asean Japan Center.

According to the DTI, about 60 percent of the country's exporters were SMEs and that Manila FAME exhibitors employ 94,000 direct and indirect workers.

As for tourism revenues generated through the event, the DTI said an estimated P60.3 million came in through hotels, food and entertainment and retail businesses.

Santos said that trade promotion through Manila FAME was a means to help realize the government's $47-billion export target for 2005.

"Although some SMEs find the going tough, Manila FAME (proves the) resurging business activities for our exporters," he said. "The high level of new orders (in the latest trade show) indicate customer confidence in our products."

DENR unit seeks joint venture partner for Dinagat Island mine

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC) is seeking a joint venture partner for its nickel- and chromite-rich Dinagat Island mine site in northeast of Surigao del Norte.

Company president Artemio F. Disini said NRMDC, a unit under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the prospective partner would assist in the exploration and development of the Dinagat Island mine field.

Disini said a bidding for this purpose would likely be held in late June. He added that Chinese firms Jinchuan Nonferrous Metals Corp. and Shanghai Baosteel Corp. had signified interest to participate in the bidding.

The official said NRMDC had already put up a buying station in Dinagat Island and was expected to establish a large-scale mining operation there. A large-scale nickel prospect may require $800 million to $1 billion in investments.

Disini said initial explorations indicated promising prospects in Dinagat.

"It's a very interesting prospect. It was once explored under the UNDP (United Nations Development Program), specifically the UN Revolving Fund Project. They did a lot of drilling from December 1988 to May 1993," he said in an interview.

"It has high prospects and investment potential for chromite, nickel laterite with iron. Traces of gold have been observed in stream sediment samplings conducted by the UNDP. Small scale miners were mining chromite at 1 to 1.5 tons of lumpy ore per miner per day. All indicators warrant an exploration. But of course a large mining venture requires a bigger deposit," he said.

Among those that had previously explored Dinagat was Krominco Inc., a Filipino-Canadian-Chinese company, and East Coast, which has a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) for a site south of Dinagat Island.

BOC proposes ways to raise CAP trust fund

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE TRUST group of Bank of Commerce (BOC) , a major trustee bank of troubled preneed firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc., is proposing measures to grow CAP's shrinking trust fund by at least P1.9 billion.

Also, bank president Raul de Mesa yesterday said BOC had performed its job as trustee of CAP and stressed that the bank did not enter into any fraudulent transaction with and in behalf of the country's largest education plan provider.

The proposed measures have yet to be implemented by trustee banks after securing approval from the CAP board.

CAP's trust fund had shrunk to roughly P4.7 billion after selling its bond assets to pay tuition fees. BOC manages about P2.6 billion of the amount.

In a briefing yesterday at the BOC office, bank executive vice president Mario Padilla said the bank's trust group recommended the swapping of CAP's stake in Fil-Estate Management Inc. into several pieces of property worth P1.9 billion.

Between 1997 and 1998, CAP acquired P1.65 billion worth of Femi shares. The Femi investment as of December 2004 was valued at roughly P654 million. Femi is a holding company with investments in publicly-listed Fil-Estate Land Inc.

"You are adding value to what has been reduced in (CAP's) books. The marketability of these pieces of property is much better than if we stick to the FEMI shares," Padilla said.

GSII completes cold rolling mill rehab

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GLOBAL Steelworks International Inc., formerly National Steel Corp., said it had revived its cold rolling mill as it continued the extensive rehabilitation of the steel plant in Iligan City.

GSII president Sushant C. Das said the rehabilitation of the cold rolling mill, which was rendered unusable six years ago, took 10 months to complete.

According to the firm, the five-stand cold mill was last used in May 1999 before it caught fire during routine maintenance. The fire resulted in serious damages in the mill's mechanical, electrical and computer control systems.

Das said the operation of the mill, combined with a smaller four-stand mill that was already being used, brought the plant's total output to a million ton of cold rolled steel products yearly.

Cold rolling pertains to the processing of previously rolled steels coils—as opposed to hot-rolled coils that are made from steel slabs—into thinner sheets.

"Bringing the five-stand mill on stream will enable us to fully meet the demand of our existing domestic and export markets for cold-rolled products," Das said.

He added that the additional capacity would also enable GSII to offer its products to more markets in the Southeast Asia region.

"Our initial deliveries in these markets have received very encouraging feedback in terms of quality and delivery commitment," he said.

GSII—a subsidiary of one of the world's leading steel manufacturers, Global Infrastructure Holding Ltd.—acquired for P13 billion the former NSC last year. It has been implementing an extensive rehabilitation program of the Iligan plant since then.

"The full rehabilitation of the five-stand cold mill in (only 10 months) is a major engineering and technological achievement," Das said.

Sanjay Mathur, GSII corporate resource officer, said GSII sourced spare parts, components and experts from around the world to make sure that rehabilitation proceeded on schedule.

Mathur explained that the five-stand cold rolling mill was considered the heart of the steel plant.

"It gives GSII flexibility in the product mix because it can produce cold-rolled, full-hard material for a wide variety of gauges in both narrow- and wide-width coils, including those that we require to produce tinplate," he said.

Bayantel starts principal debt payments

By Abigail L. Ho

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., the telecommunications arm of the Lopez group, will start paying its principal debt in June this year on top of the planned P600 million in interest payments.

BayanTel chief finance officer Salvador Tirona said the company would continue to meet its quarterly repayment obligations, which started last September, based on its court-approved term sheet.

In September last year, the debt-ridden firm made its first P135-million interest payment to its creditors.

The second payment came in January, and the third just last month.

"Our debt restructuring is on track. We have been meeting our quarterly obligations. By June, we'll be starting small principal payments," he said in a recent briefing.

He said the payments would reduce the principal debt of $471 million by only around one percent.

He said principal payments would then continue on a quarterly basis.

Court-appointed receiver Remigio Noval early this year submitted his term sheet to the Pasig court, which Tirona said was "more or less in line" with BayanTel's own debt reduction plan.

Last March 15, the court decided to accept the receiver's term sheet.

But some of BayanTel's creditors last year asked the Court of Appeals to review the rehabilitation plan that the Pasig court had earlier approved.

Tirona said the commercial terms were consistent, but there were some administrative matters that had to be clarified, including the creation of a three-person monitoring committee composed of officials from the creditors.

"This is to make sure that BayanTel is within the court-approved rehabilitation plan," he said.

Sun subscriber base growth slows down

By Clarissa S. Batino

AFTER enjoying months of strong subscriber take-up due to its buffet pricing, Sun Cellular's ability to attract new customers weakened in March and April as leading industry players joined the price war.

Sun Cellular ended the first quarter with 1.7 million subscribers, hardly unchanged from its end-February number, said a source.

The take-up in April did not improve much, prompting the mobile carrier of the Gokongwei family to launch in the middle of the month an unlimited deal for 2 days for P20 under its 24/7 plan.

In May, the company will launch its all-voice buffet calls, an official said. Sun Cellular is the trade name of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc., a unit of Gokongwei-owned Digitel.

Since the launching of the 24/7 plan on Oct. 1, Sun Cellular had been registering robust subscription growth, which allowed it the company to expand its customer base to 1.7 million in end-February from only 700,000 in end-September.

The 24/7 plan offers unlimited, within-network text and calls for P350 for 30 days, P100 for seven days and P20 for two days. It is also offering a text-all-you-can service for P150 for 30 days and P50 for seven days.

The two-year-old carrier enticed an average of 200,000 subscribers monthly from October to February, prompting the company to aspire for a 3-million subscriber base by the end of this year.

To protect their market shares, Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. started offering similar deals in March. Globe went into buffet pricing. Smart has its 30-day extension of its 258 promo starting April 22.

KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR

LABOR DAY BIG AUCTION

PULILAN SITE: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN

GENSETS: (3) DENYO 25KVA; (2) DENYO SUPERSILENT 45KVA; (1) DETRIOT 75KVA; (2) OLYMPIAN 62.5KVA; (2) PERKINS 34KVA; (1) PERKINS 50KVA; (1) POWERMASTER 65KVA; (1) MITSUBISHI 20KVA (1) 20KVA DENYO WELDER GENERATOR; (1) PERKINS 165KVA; (1) DENYO 10KVA

VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT: 1997 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY; (2) ISUZU ELF MANLIFT TRUCK; (1) MITSUBISHI CANTER WIDE; ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE; (1) ISUZU BOOM TRUCK W/ BOOM (3) COMPRESSOR W/ JACK HAMMER; (2) 130A WELDING MACHINE

GENERAL MERCHANDIZE: COMPUTERS; FURNITURES; FIXTURES; NOVELTY ITEMS; (8) DINING TABLE SETS; (40) SAFETY VAULTS; (4) BANK VAULT DOOR; (20) 2-DOOR CHILLERS; (50) GUEST CHAIRS; (50) 13MM THK GLASS PANELS; JACUZZI; HOT & COLD WATER HEATER; AIRCONS; MASSAGE BED; 12 TONS SCRAP METALS AND MANY MORE (REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P10,000)

VIEWING DATES: APRIL 29-30, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

AUCTION DATE: MAY 1, 2005 (SUN) 10:30 AM

FAIRVIEW AUCTION

27 NAPOLI-BELFAST AVE., NORTH FAIRVIEW, Q.C. (BACK OF SM CITY FAIRVIEW)

CLASS-A BAKERY & RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

GENSETS: COMPUTERS; FURNITURES; FIXTURES; FOOD CARTS; ICE CRUSHER; CHILLERS; HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; DESK; CHAIRS; LOCKERS; CONFERENCE TABLE; CABINETS; BOOKSHELVES; COPIER; EXECUTIVE CHAIRS; GLASSWARE; DECORATIVE ITEMS AND MANY MORE...

VIEWING DATES: MAY 5-6, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2005 (SAT) 10:30 AM

ON-SITE ANTIQUE AUCTION

DINING TABLES; APARADOR; COMMODAS; LATERAS; ALTAR TABLES; DRESSERS; JEWELRY; CHEST OF DRAWERS; CHINA CABINETS; DIVIDERS; DINING CHAIRS; ACCENT TABLES; DAYBEDS; LALIQUE CRYSTALS; ENGLISH PORCELAINS; JAPANESE SATSUMAS; MIRRORS; CHINESE SNUFF BOTTLES; IVORY CARVINGS; PAINTINGS; FRAME ART WORKS; MEMORABILIAS; COCA COLA OLD BOTTLES; OLD RADIO; COLLECTIBLE BOOKS; MOLAVE GARDEN SETS; HOME APPLIANCES AND MANY MORE...

52 KATIPUNAN AVE., WHITE PLAINS, Q.C.

AUCTION DATE: MAY 8, 2005 (SUN) 10:30 AM

ON-SITE AUCTION TODAY: APRIL 30, 2005, 10:30 AM
UNIT 1803 18 FLOOR, 88 CORPORATE CENTER, VALERO ST. COR. SEDEÑO ST. SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY

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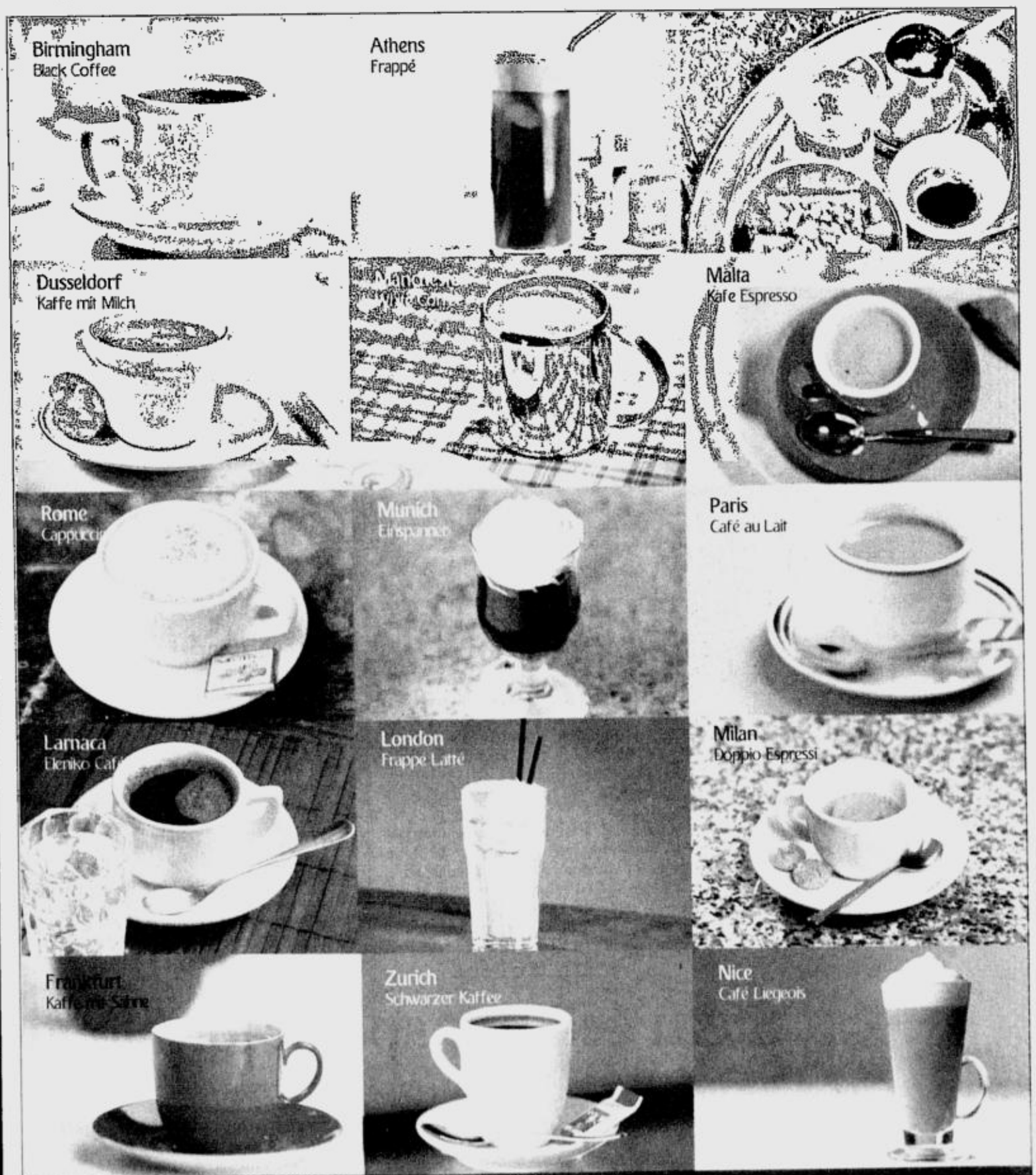

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

What to do if your child has ADHD

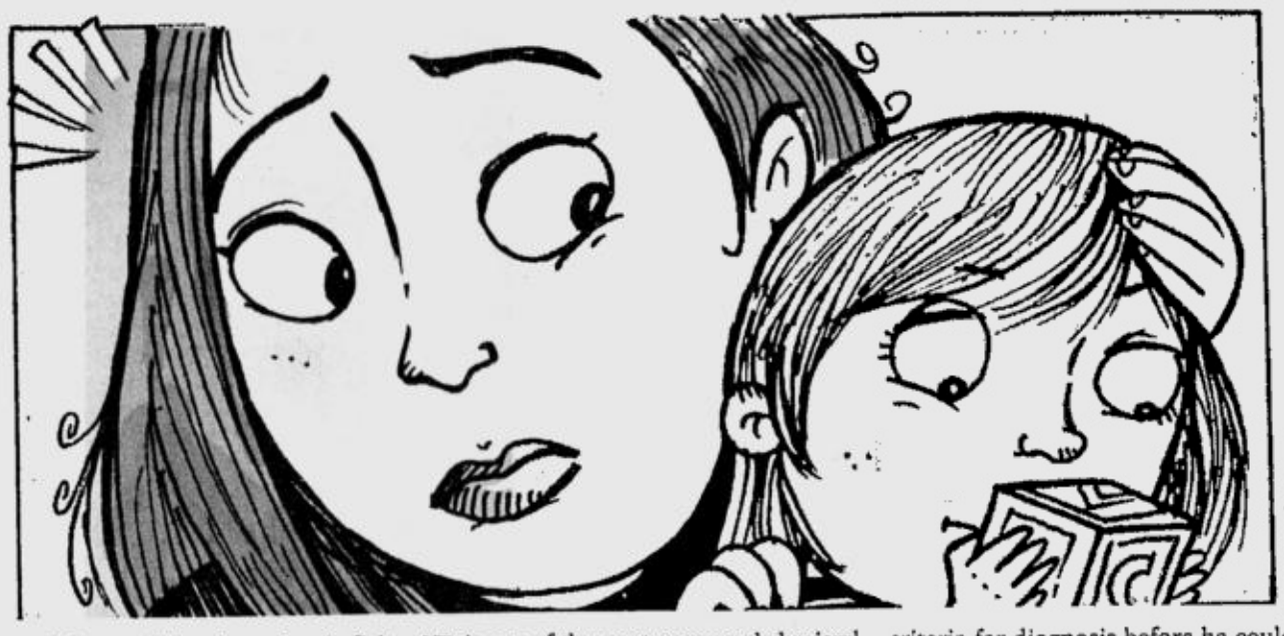
By Charles E. Buban

MOST parents experience changes in their child's behavior. Sometimes children behave like a supercharged car, unmindful of others who might get annoyed by their exuberance. Or they may be too engrossed in one corner of the room to the point of ignoring others who might be calling for them.

These behaviors should not concern parents like Margarita (name withheld upon request) if they rarely happen.

"At first, I thought my son Mario's behavior was just part of the normal process of growing up," says Margarita. "But when I noticed they were becoming more than an occasional occurrence, I started to suspect [something was wrong]."

Margarita got even more concerned when her 6-year-old son began schooling last year.



STEPH BRAVO

Difficulty learning

"In class, Mario had difficulty learning how to read and listen," Margarita says.

His teacher told her Mario, although a smart child, was always distracted, played by himself and did not pay attention.

When the teacher talked to her and discussed the condition Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Margarita decided to visit a pediatrician, who eventually referred her to a child psychologist in Quezon City.

"I was told that ADHD is difficult to diagnose—a parent cannot just conclude [a child has] ADHD just because the child is hyperactive. I also needed inputs from others, in this case Mario's teacher, who can give an objective observation," says Margarita.

Signs

According to Dr. Ma. Theresa Arranz-Lim of the ADHD Society of the Philippines, ADHD is one of the most common behavioral conditions in childhood whose most notable symptoms include inattention, with or without hyperactivity and impulsivity or a combination of the three.

To get an accurate diagnosis of ADHD, she says the child must undergo evaluation (most likely from a child psychologist) to rule out any medical conditions.

She says the doctor will most probably take a detailed medical and family history of the child, a complete physical and neurological test as well as take note of both parents' and teachers' observations.

Lim adds that a child must fulfill the criteria for diagnosis before he could be declared to have ADHD.

Treatment

Once the child is diagnosed with ADHD, there are treatment options available, including behavioral strategies and techniques, parent education, and therapy geared toward improving the child's self-esteem, problem-solving skills and aggression control (especially for those exhibiting impulsivity).

Research also shows that medication can be beneficial in treating ADHD symptoms. Among these are stimulants (like amphetamine), antidepressants and a newer class of drug that is a nonstimulant (atomoxetine) and works by increasing the levels of a particular chemical in the brain responsible for regulating attention, impulsivity and activity levels.

Awareness campaign

Education is also important, according to Margarita, who at present is participating in an awareness campaign that goes around schools nationwide (a joint project by the ADHD Society of the Philippines and Eli Lilly Philippines).

"These series of seminars are meant to raise the level of awareness and help parents, teachers and caregivers manage children with the condition," says Margarita, who believes in the need to provide a positive perspective on ADHD to remove the stigma placed on children with the condition.

The campaign, which started two years ago, has already reached 19 schools nationwide and will hold more seminars in more schools, especially outside Metro Manila.

Margarita admits parenting a child with ADHD can be challenging and stressful. She says: "But if you know how to address your child's misbehaviors, manage your own stress, and learn to properly coordinate with your child's teachers and the school, I believe any child with ADHD will be able to grow up normally and face his own challenges more effectively."

Day care can help prevent childhood cancer

LONDON—Sending very young children to day-care centers and playgroups could help protect them from childhood leukemia, researchers said.

Some degree of exposure to common illnesses early on is important for the immune system, they agreed.

Unknown infections, along with a genetic default that occurs before birth, are the most likely cause of childhood leukemia, they added in a study.

"Early exposure to infections through social contact seems to be protective against the disease," Prof. Mel Greaves of the Institute of Cancer Research in London told a news conference.

An analysis of the results of the largest and most comprehensive study of childhood leukemia revealed that most cases of the disease originate in the womb when chromosomes break and exchange bits of their DNA.

But the disease is triggered by unknown infections during childhood that trigger an immune system response leading to the illness.

"Challenges to the immune system, possibly by infection, may be the main cause of leukemia," said Dr. David Grant of the Leukemia Research Fund in England.

Common childhood cancer

Leukemia, a cancer of immature white blood cells, is the most common childhood cancer. It usually occurs between 2 and 4 years old and can be successfully treated in most cases.

Scientists have been puzzled by the causes of childhood leukemia since it was first diagnosed. But the 15-year United Kingdom Childhood Cancer Study (UKCCS), which involved more than 13,000 children including nearly 2,000 with leukemia, suggests that a double whammy—the genetic default and the timing or pattern of infection early in life—are critical.

"The crucial second event is some kind of infection," said Greaves.

In a separate study by the British Medical Journal, scientists found that children who attend day-care centers or playgroups during the first few months of their life are less likely to develop leukemia.

"Our results provide further support that social activity with other infants and children during the first few months of life protects against acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)," said Clare Gilham, of the Institute of Cancer Research, referring to the most common type of childhood leukemia.

"We conclude that some degree of early exposure to infection seems to be important for child health," she added.

The scientists questioned the parents of 6,305 healthy children and 3,140 who had been diagnosed with leukemia between 1991 and 1996.

Babies who had gone to day care, a nursery school or a playgroup with other youngsters at least once a week during the first three months of their life had the greatest reduction in the risk of leukemia.

About 86 percent of the mothers of the healthy children said their children had some form of social activity outside the home during the first year of their life. *Reuters*

Mathematics of party lists

(First of three parts)

STEPH BRAVO

WHAT does math have to contribute to politics? My colleague Dr. Felix P. Muga II [fmuga@ateneo.edu], associate professor at the Ateneo de Manila Mathematics Department, contributes some thoughts regarding good seat allocation for our party-list system.

In our present Congress, there are six pending House bills proposing to amend Republic Act 7941, the Party-List System Act. The amendments aim to correct the law's imperfections so that it will broaden the representation of the marginalized and underrepresented sectors of our society.

RA 7941 declares that the party-list system provides for proportional representation in the election of members to the House and reserves 20 percent of the total number of seats in the House to party-list representatives.

In last year's party-list election, the Comelec allocated 24 party-list seats out of a total 53. The seats were also not entirely filled in the 1998 and 2001 elections.

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

Winning percentage

The problem lies in the seat allocation method under RA 7941. It uses 2 percent as the winning minimum percentage. The share of a party relative to the total votes for the party-list is divided by 2 percent. The integer portion of this quotient is equivalent to the number of seats that a party wins. However, RA 7941 provides that party lists can win no more than three seats.

Since 1 divided by 2 percent is 50, the number of seats that can be allocated by RA 7941 is up to 50. Hence, the 2 percent winning minimum percentage and the three-seat cap distort the principle of proportional representation of the party-list system.

Thus, there is a need to amend the existing party-list law and find the best seat allocation method.

Our search can be guided by three indices: representation, proportionality and elasticity.

Index of representation

First, the index of representation is the value in percent that is relative to the total number of seats available for the party-list system. We desire a 100 percent index of representation.

Since the total number of seats allocated by RA 7941 in the 2004 party-list election is 24, the index of representation of the allocation is 24/53 ×100 percent = 45.283 percent.

Second, the party-list system is based on the principle of proportional representation.

This means that a party with 1 percent of the total votes receives 1 percent of the total seats; a party with 2 percent of the total votes gets 2 percent of the total seats; a party with 3 percent of the total votes obtains 3 percent of the total seats; and so on.

The degree in which proportionality is achieved is measured by the index of proportionality. A 100 percent index of proportionality may not be achieved. But we desire an index of proportionality of at least 90 percent.

To compute for the index of proportionality, we shall adopt the formula proposed by US mathematicians Richard Rose, Neil Munro and Tom Mackie in 1998. This formula, known as the Rose Index of Proportionality, is computed by finding the absolute or positive difference between the shares of votes and the corresponding shares of seats, added up together, multiplied by 0.5, and the product subtracted from 1. The result is multiplied by 100 percent.

Thus, the index of proportionality based on RA 7941 is (1 - 0.5 x 0.5471698) × 100 percent = 72.642 percent.

Flexible allocation

Third, a second-chance party is a small party whose share of votes is below the actual winning minimum percentage, but it wins one seat when given a chance in an extra round of seat allocation.

A seat allocation method is elastic if it is flexible enough to give smaller parties a chance to win a seat. This is consistent with the purpose of the 1987 Constitution to give a chance to the marginalized and the underprivileged sectors of the society a voice in Congress.

The index of elasticity is equal to the quotient when the number of second-chance parties is divided by the number of first-round winning parties. The quotient is multiplied by 100 percent. We desire a value of at least 50 percent.

However, in reality, the seat allocation method of RA 7941 produces no second-chance parties. Hence, the index of elasticity is 0 percent.

(Next week: Analysis of House bills)

Stem cell transplant for blood cancer patients

By Geoffrey Tobias
Contributor

LILIA Hernandez, a retired chemical engineer and mother of two, was just over 50 when she began experiencing pain in the back and rib area.

"I could not stand the pain," she said. "It was severe and almost paralyzing."

She was diagnosed as having osteoporosis, a bone disease common in aging women. But further tests revealed that she had myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells.

Plasma cells, normally found in the bone marrow, are part of the immune system that produces antibodies to fight off infections. Multiple myeloma occurs when several areas of the bone marrow are affected.

The cancerous cells were slowly destroying Lilia's vertebra, or backbone, a common problem for many myeloma patients. Because of this, Lilia's height shrunk from 5-foot-3 to 5 feet.

Chemotherapy

In 2003, Lilia began weekly chemotherapy for six months. When she later refused to undergo further chemotherapy, she was treated with thalidomide, a comebacking drug now used against multiple myeloma.

Meanwhile, her sisters in the United States, who were supplying her with information from the International Myeloma Foundation, suggested a procedure called autologous stem cell transplant as a possible treatment option.

Chemotherapy and radiation destroy cells that divide rapidly, including cancer cells. However, because bone marrow cells also divide frequently, they are also affected by high-dose chemotherapy. If a bone marrow gets destroyed, a person will no longer be able to produce the blood cells needed to carry oxygen, fight infection and prevent bleeding.

Peripheral cell transplant

Autologous stem cell transplant, also called peripheral blood stem cell transplantation, is a type of bone marrow transplant that restores stem cells that have been destroyed by high doses of chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy.

Stem cells are young cells that can mature into blood cells. They are found in the bone marrow, bloodstream or umbilical cord.

Autologous stem cell transplant is not a surgical procedure, but is rather more like a blood transfusion. The stem cells used in the procedure come from the blood of the patient who has been in remission (meaning, the signs and symptoms of cancer have disappeared).

The stem cells are obtained through a process called apheresis. A few days before apheresis, the patient is given medication to increase the number of stem cells released into the bloodstream. The extracted blood goes through a machine that removes the stem cells. The blood is returned to the donor and the collected cells are stored. The stem cells are frozen until they are given back to the patient after high-dose chemotherapy treatment.

2nd in RP

Last month, Lilia was deemed suitable for an autologous stem cell transplant, becoming only the second patient in the country to undergo such procedure at Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

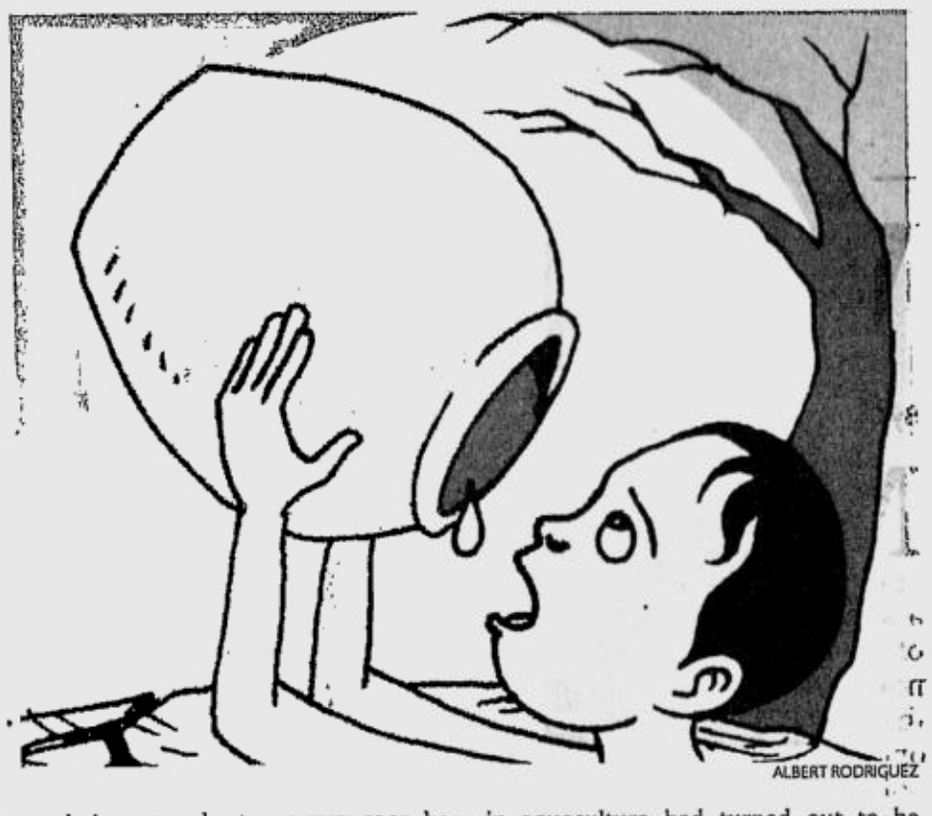
In the United States, autologous stem cell transplant is considered a standard treatment for multiple myeloma.

While not a cure, studies show that autologous stem cell transplant can extend the survival of patients by five years compared with traditional chemotherapy's survival rate of two-and-a-half years.

The transplant can also improve the quality of life of patients because they will not require chemotherapy for up to one-and-a-half years.

"I never doubted the procedure and the ability of my doctor," Lilia said, several days after the transplant.

Water crisis in the offing


ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Henrylito D. Tacio
Contributor

THE WORLD has got a very big water problem," said Sir Crispin Tickell, former British ambassador to the United Nations and one of the organizers of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. "Wars of the next century will be over water," deplored World Bank's Ismail Serageldin in 1995.

There are some examples. "Battles have been fought over water allocation in many countries," asserted former Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "The potential for a conflict over water is perhaps at its most serious in the Middle East where water supplies are extremely limited, political tensions traditionally run high, and water is just one of the issues that may divide countries."

According to Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, the 1967 Six-Day War was caused by tensions over the Jordan River and its tributaries. "It's simply a question of survival," said then Israeli Water Commissioner Meir Ben Meir. "Thirst for water is an ignition to violence."

Suffering from lack of water

Filipinos may not resort to violence yet, but the country is already going through a water crisis. "On a macro-level, it appears there is plenty of water, but we are now experiencing problems and, in some instances, some areas (of the country) are suffering from lack of water," said Elisea Gozun when she was still the environment and natural resources secretary.

"Water, water everywhere," wrote Samuel Taylor Coleridge in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," "but not a drop to drink."

"One in five people living today does not have access to safe drinking water, and half the world's population does not have adequate sanitation," said the Asian Development Bank in its report, "Water in the 21st Century."

As a result, "between 10 and 25 million people die each year," reported Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer during a conference on Food, Water and War: Security in a World of Conflict.

The New York-based UN Population Fund predicted that by the year 2025, two-thirds of the world's population of 6.5 billion will suffer from shortages of fresh water for drinking.

"Will Filipinos be among those who will have less clean water to drink?" wondered Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, executive director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development.

Water-critical areas

As early as 1991, the Japan International Cooperation Agency listed nine major cities in the country as "water-critical areas." These were Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Angeles (Pampanga), Bacolod (Negros Occidental), Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga.

The "Philippine Human Development Report" confirmed above study recently.

One out of every four Cebuanos lack "access to improved water sources," it notes. In Guimaras, six out of 10 lack potable water. It is seven in Lanao del Sur.

Daily woes for years

But the water crisis is more transparent in Metro Manila. "For many residents in Metro Manila, coping with a 'water supply crisis' has been part of their daily woes for years," stated the databank and research of Ibon Foundation Inc.

Among Asian cities, Metro Manila ranks second to the lowest in providing piped sewerage system. "Only 7 percent of the population of Metro Manila is connected to a piped sewerage system and only a few households have acceptable effluent from their septic tanks," reported Lisa Kircher Lumbao, project manager of the Local Initiatives for Affordable Wastewater Treatment (Linaw).

Small wonder then that water diseases abound. A couple of years back, four people died and 200 were hospitalized because of contaminated water in Tondo. Doctors traced a cholera outbreak to the water in the area, caused by old, dilapidated and leaking pipes of the Maynilad Water Services Inc.

"Untreated wastewater spreads disease-causing bacteria and viruses, making water unfit for drinking and recreational use, threatening biodiversity, and deteriorating overall quality of life," observed Linaw's Lumbao.

Nonrenewable resource

Water is a limited nonrenewable resource, of which a fixed amount exists on the planet: some 1,400 million cubic kilometers, which can be neither increased nor decreased. Most of this, that is, 97.4 percent, is salt water; another 2 percent is locked away in ice caps and glaciers. This leaves only 0.6 percent, or 8.4 cubic kilometers, of which some 8 million cubic kilometers are stored underground.

Put in another way, if all the earth's water were to fit in a gallon jug (4 liters), the available fresh water would be just over one tablespoon.

According to experts, Filipinos consume 310 to 507 cubic meters of water daily, but not everyone has access to the commodity.

Most of the water is supplied by rainfall, which is unevenly distributed.

"Despite an average annual rainfall of 2.36 meters," said PCAMRD's Dr. Guerrero, "the distribution of rain is not even throughout the country. Southern Tagalog has the most freshwater available, while Western Visayas has the least."

Food security

"We live in a water-challenged world," decried Lester R. Brown, president of the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute. "Unless governments in water-short countries act quickly to stabilize population and to raise water productivity, their water shortages may soon become food shortages."

"Water scarcity will affect food security throughout Asia and the Pacific," agreed the ADB report. Both observations echoed the prediction of the International Water Management Institute in 1998, stating that water will be the "single most important constraint to increased food production."

The Laguna-based International Rice Research Institute said the amount of water needed to produce one ton of rice—the staple food of Filipinos—would fill between two and three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

"Agriculture is where future water shortages will be most acute," pointed out Time's Michael S. Serrill.

Biggest users of water

In the Philippines, the biggest user of water is the agriculture sector, with 86 percent of the total; followed by industry, 8 percent; and consumers, 6 percent.

During her term, Gozun said that water shortage would continue to hound Filipinos well into the year 2025. "Sad but true that a country such as ours, surrounded by water and known to be rich in aquaculture had turned out to be, prone to water deficiency," said Sixto Tolentino Jr. of DENR's Environmental Management Bureau.

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water," American statesman Benjamin Franklin reminded us.

Pledge

During her inaugural speech, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pledged that she would "supply water to all barangays" before her term ends in 2010.

"It's good a President seeks water," wrote veteran journalist Juan Mercado. "But citizens must respond by lifestyles that reduces demands on a scarce common resource."

Meanwhile, at the home of Rosa Andal, in the poverty-stricken Sapu Masla village in the southern part of Mindanao, there is no water: the tap has long been dry. She must get up in the dark of night and, laden with plastic pails, walk for three kilometers to fetch water from a river.

"Nobody does anything," Andal lamented. "Politicians come, make promises, take votes and go. What else can the government claim to do when it cannot even provide a glass of clean drinking water for my children?"

An open letter to our daughters Rochelle, Roxanne

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

YOUR mom and I hope you're enjoying your much-needed summer break from school at the UP Manila. We know you have both been studying hard so you can achieve your common dream of becoming good doctors someday. We appreciate your diligence and the sacrifices that you make so you may rightfully deserve the taxpayer's support as *iskolar ng bayan*.

We understand your concern when you read the front page story last week about the feared imminent medical apocalypse (PDI, 04/23/2005). Anesthesiologists are jumping ship in big batches; obstetricians are also said to be a diminishing lot; and pediatricians are joining the medical diaspora in droves.

"I call it medical apocalypse, the end of medical practice in the Philippines," Philippine Medical Association president Bu Castro was quoted as saying.

I agree that we have quite a dire situation in the country which needs to be adequately addressed, but, with all due respect to my friend Bu, I don't believe we're headed for a complete medical meltdown ("the end of medical practice") or are anywhere near apocalyptic proportions.

And I'm saying this not just to lift your spirits because I know how it feels to aim for something which will no longer be there when you reach it. On the contrary, my optimism is reinforced when I talk to both of you. Your enthusiasm and commitment remain unwavering despite the discouraging scenario, and I'm sure this is shared by thousands others aspiring to become doctors someday.

MEDICAL FILES

Proud parents

Rochelle, you made your Mom and I extremely proud when you graduated last week with a BS Biology degree (magna cum laude). We can't express enough how much we appreciate it when you asked both of us to come up the stage with you to receive your medal when only one parent was allowed. You have also been accepted to the UP College of Medicine on your own merits.

Roxanne, you'll be in your senior year in BS Biology, maintaining your university scholar status. Your zeal for your studies and focus on your dream give me no doubt that just like your Ate Shelly, you'll become a fine doctor someday.

Never mind that some schools are closing down and several more will. I'm sure your school and at least 15 others will never close down. These are the schools that produce quality graduates, future medical practitioners who will bring honor to the profession. As you've always said: "It's not the quantity, but the quality."

I've always thought too that having more than 30 medical schools only makes our country a diploma mill. The regulatory authorities should have weeded out substandard medical institutions long ago. The current medical exigency is doing it for them.

Socially relevant career

The exigencies will also be a test to separate the grain from the chaff, the curious from the serious. So be it that those who are only curious about what it's like to be a doctor fall out of the race. Let those who are truly serious and remain steadfast to your ideals stay on to finish the race.

Yes, I agree with you, career success is one thing. But being successful in a socially relevant career is better. There will always be a way to balance your medical values with your other social values and priorities in life.

I assure you, it's still rewarding to practice medicine in more ways than just financial. It gives a doctor a different kind of high when he feels that God is using him as His instrument to heal patients.

After a backbreaking day, the thought that he has done his best to practice both the art and science of medicine gives a doctor sound sleep to prepare him for another daily grind in the emergency room, the intensive care unit or a rural health unit.

Gift from patients

Is it fun? I'm still having a ball 28 years since I attended to my first patient as a medical intern. Remember the dozens of sunglasses a grateful patient gifted me with? We had so much fun giving them away to friends and relatives. In her next visit, the patient brought several dozens more. So we had sunglasses everywhere in the house. And if a visitor liked any of them, he could have it.

Up to now, almost everything I wear from head to foot is a gift from a patient. And the food, fruits and cakes I bring home each night... they're small gifts, but they give the giver and recipient a huge amount of joy. These make the practice of medicine so much fun.

Yes, the medical situation in our country is in bad shape now. But it's just a phase. And just like the many crises our country has had in the past, it comes...and it will go.

The healthcare system is tipping into an imbalance, but we're not headed for a medical apocalyptic end. And we never will, for as long as we have young men and women imbued with the ideals and optimism amid the pervading feeling of helplessness in our society.

As someone put it, the practice of medicine is too important, and the men and women who undertake it too estimable, for the system not to balance itself.

With much love,
Papa

Are you a candidate for diabetes?

A FEW years back, the "silent killer" that is diabetes hogged the pages of numerous popular publications, prompting readers to become more conscious of their diets. Countless have sought help from either an endocrinologist, diabetologist or internist. The adage, better be certain than sorry later, has definitely gained more weight.

Reports revealed an alarming rise in the number of diabetics throughout the country and across the globe. The propagation of "instant," ready-to-gobble food together with not-so-belly-friendly beverage in fast-food chains all over the country nowadays, has made it very easy for practically anyone to develop diabetes, which doctors have now aptly labeled as a "lifestyle" disease. Take note too, the risk of becoming one is doubled and higher if it runs in the family.

Silent but deadly

Diabetes is a silent but deadly malady. This lifestyle disease has entrenched itself in a very enviable position among other top-ranking killer diseases like hypertension, cancer and stroke, even aneurism. Like these other three, a stress-filled, hectic lifestyle or abusive habits, combined by a toxic diet taken day in and day out (whether unconsciously or carelessly) over a period of time can definitely have a disastrous by-product.

Blood sugar level

The telltale signs point to one's blood sugar level. Do you have a too high or too low glucose level? That's already a fair warning. The necessity therefore, of being able to screen the first time to be sure that one's blood sugar level is normal. is very important to all. Type 1 and 2 diabetic patients, currently under medical supervision by their doctors, need to monitor accurately their glucose level.

Fortunately, there is now a painless way to do this. , many doctors now recommend an affordable yet more reliable, systematic and convenient way of accurately checking one's blood sugar level anywhere and anytime of the day. It is sold at Mercury Drugstores nationwide. Ascensia Elite and Entrust Glucometers come from Bayer, the leader in diabetic care research and management for over 60 years. They are exclusively distributed by Fernando Medical Enterprises.

Ascensia Glucometer has two types: the no fuss, no mess, no buttons to push Elite Glucometer automatically turns on when the test strip is inserted. It uses capillary gap technology which requires only 2uL of blood so there's absolutely no need to squeeze the finger just to get a drop of blood. Entrust Glucometer's straightforward setup and finger-friendly coded test strip fits easily into the meter and has a large holding area for better strip handling. The LCD window displays information to guide user on how to get test results, retrieve memory of previous results (patients can easily review up to 10 tests with its convenient meter memory).

Both the Ascensia Elite and Entrust are handy, lightweight, portable and have replaceable batteries. Both provide accurate glucose level reading results comparable to laboratory plasma method used in many diagnostic clinics—in just 30 seconds.

Easy steps

To do the blood glucose level yourself, just follow these easy steps:

- Start with the Ascensia glucometer turned off.
- Insert code card into the meter.
- Next, insert the strip sensor.
- Obtain blood sample and apply blood to the sensor reaction zone area of the test strip.
- Wait for the beep after 30 seconds.
- Record the result that appears on the display monitor
- Dispose off the test strip.

The normal range of a person's blood sugar level (after fasting) should be between 60 and 120 mg/dL. At random (without fasting), the range should be between 70 and 140 mg/dl.

Should the result of your blood glucose level appear high, it is strongly recommended that you visit your doctor.

Diabetic patients under a doctor's close supervision are advised to monitor their blood sugar level at least three times a day to be able to have better diabetes control. Those who have normal glucose level are still likely runners-up and need to screen their blood sugar level at least once a month, just to be sure.

It pays to know you're not a likely candidate, this early on. Early warned is better armed, so you can take a 180 turnaround in your diet or habit or lifestyle. After all, your life or that of your loved ones is at stake.

What you need to know about Melasma

MELASMA is characterized by brown color patches usually seen over the cheeks, forehead, nose, upper lip and chin, most often symmetrical or matching discolorations on both sides of the face.

The disease is characterized by dark skin discolorations found on the sun exposed areas of the face. Filipinas are sadly at greater risk of developing Melasma. Women between the ages of 20 and 40 years with brownish skin tones and who live in tropical climates are more prone to developing it as sun exposure is a strong risk factor for Melasma.

Constant exposure to the sun and pollutants that generate free-radicals trigger the melanin producing cells or melanocytes to multiply and become active, thus resulting in more melanin than otherwise needed and causing the brownish spots on the said areas of the face. Likewise, it is a common occurrence in pregnant women, those who take oral contraceptives and women taking hormone replacement therapy during menopause.

Apart from avoiding the sun and using sunscreen daily (not less than 25 SPF), there is the first and only effective and safe oral solution for skin depigmentation or Melasma: Pynocare 40 Actisome.

Now available in the country, Pynocare 40 Actisome capsules consist of four effective yet natural substances in the form of MSCC Complex.

The first is French Pine Bark extract, a natural herb from pine trees which grows in the Atlantic coasts throughout Southern France. This pure extract is accepted by many medical researchers from all over the world for its efficacy as a longevity ingredient for the whole body system but most especially for the skin.

The second is D. salina extract, an algae which is a natural source of mixed carotenoids, the most active of which is beta carotene, which taken orally can reduce sunburn and increase the skin's antioxidant defenses against UV radiation, thus making it an important player in the treatment of Melasma.

Vitamin E, the third substance in Pynocare, is a leading lipid face antioxidant in the body. It acts to stabilize and protect the cell membranes and carrier molecules from toxic compounds, radiation and free radicals.

Vitamin E provides a balancing effect of pigmentation on the skin which leads to reduction in the intensity and frequency of Melasma and dark spots on the face. Finally, Vitamin C is an important antioxidant and free radical scavenger. Its major role is manufacturing collagen which is beneficial for healthy skin.

These four highly effective ingredients are found in Pynocare 40 Actisome which forms the MSCC Complex breakthrough for melasma; a soft gelatin capsule with actisome technology which if taken continuously for 8 weeks, result in visibly clear, Melasma-free skin.

Available in boxes of 20 soft-gel capsules, Pynocare 40 Actisome can be purchased in selected Mercury Drug outlets in the greater Manila area and will be available in selected Watsons and Mansons drugstores in GMA, Pampanga, Bulacan and Caloocan.

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

INSTRUCTIONS TO CHIEFS OF POLICE OF CITIES/ MUNICIPALITIES ON THE CONDUCT OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ON THE VIOLATION OF THE BANS ON FIREARMS, OTHER DEADLY WEAPONS AND SECURITY PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH AUGUST 8, 2005 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

x----------x

ABALOS, Benjamin S. — **Chairman**
JAVIER, Rufino S.B. — **Commissioner**
SADAIN, Mehol K. — **Commissioner**
BORRA, Resurreccion Z. — **Commissioner**
TUASON, Florentino, Jr. A. — **Commissioner**
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O. — **Commissioner**
BARCELONA, Manuel, Jr. A. — **Commissioner**

Promulgated: 29 April 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7481

WHEREAS, the provincial and city prosecutors are on a continuing deputation to conduct the preliminary investigation and prosecution of election offense under Section 2 of the COMELEC Rules of Procedures;

WHEREAS, there are cities and municipalities where there are no available prosecutors to handle the preliminary investigation of alleged violations of the bans on the bearing, carrying and transporting of firearms and other deadly weapons and the employment of security personnel;

WHEREAS, for the proper investigation and successful prosecution of alleged violation of the bans on firearms and other deadly weapons, and employment of security personnel, it is necessary to authorize the chiefs of police in said cities and municipalities to conduct the preliminary examination.

NOW THEREFORE, The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, RESOLVES to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates the following instructions to all chiefs of police concerned of cities and municipalities on the conduct of preliminary examination on alleged violations of the bans on firearms and other deadly weapons and employment of security personnel:

SECTION 1. Preliminary examination: who conducts. – The Chief of Police or his duly authorized PNP representative shall conduct the preliminary examination of all apprehensions for violation of the ban on the bearing, carrying and transporting of firearms and other deadly weapons, use of armored land, water or aircraft, wearing of uniforms and bearing arms, and on the employment of security personnel and bodyguards, organization or maintenance of strike forces, reaction forces or other similar forces in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Procedure. – The Chief of Police or his duly authorized investigator shall; (a) take the affidavit of the arresting officer or policeman indicating therein the fact of arrest and the circumstances surrounding the arrest; (b) take the statement of the respondent; (c) confiscate the firearm and issue the proper receipt therefore; (d) cause the respondent to sign an affidavit binding himself to be present at the preliminary investigation at a later date before the prosecutor and that failure to do so shall constitute a waiver to present evidence for his defense; and (e) take the statement of witnesses, if any.

SECTION 3. Rights to arrested persons. – Any person arrested for violation of the bans specified on Section 1 hereof undergoing examination must be treated and with utmost respect for his constitutional and human rights, particularly his right to:

(a) be informed of his right to remain silent and to counsel;
(b) remain silent, which cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel;
(c) have competent and independent counsel preferably of his own choice, and if he cannot afford the services of counsel, he will be provided with one, which right cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel;
(d) be released from detention if no charges have been filed against him within eighteen (18) hours from the time of arrest, unless he is charged under PD 1866, as amended.

SECTION 4. Disposition of documents and evidence. – The Chief of Police shall turn over all documents and evidence gathered during the preliminary examination within three (3) days from arrest to the corresponding provincial/city prosecutor.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulations.

SECTION 6. Dissemination. – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution and furnish copies hereof to the Secretary of Justice, the Provincial and City Prosecutors of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Chief of the Philippine National Police, the Chiefs of the Police of cities and municipalities of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisors and the city/municipal Election Officers of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and give this resolution the widest publicity and dissemination.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

(Official Business)
RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

(Official Business)
FLORENTINO A. TUASON JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA JR.
Commissioner

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMELEC CHECKPOINTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 8, 2005 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

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ABALOS, Benjamin S. — **Chairman**
JAVIER, Rufino S.B. — **Commissioner**
SADAIN, Mehol K. — **Commissioner**
BORRA, Resurreccion Z. — **Commissioner**
TUASON, Florentino, Jr. A. — **Commissioner**
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O. — **Commissioner**
BARCELONA, Manuel, Jr. A. — **Commissioner**

Promulgated: 29 April 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7482

WHEREAS, to effectively implement the firearms ban during the election period, it is necessary to establish COMELEC checkpoints;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that in the implementation of the proper search procedures and seizure at the COMELEC checkpoints, civil, political and human rights are not violated;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections pursuant to the power vested in it by the Constitution, Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgate, the following guidelines;

SECTION 1. COMELEC checkpoint – There shall be at least one (1) COMELEC checkpoint for each city/municipality in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. However, additional checkpoints may be established at the discretion of the highest-ranking official of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police in the city/municipality.

SECTION 2. Checkpoint location – The official mentioned in the immediately preceding section, shall, in consultation with the city/municipality election officer (EO), establish checkpoints in their respective areas of jurisdiction only in places, which are well lighted. In areas where electric light is not available, artificial lighting shall be provided for the purpose.

SECTION 3. Checkpoint Signboard – Each COMELEC Checkpoint shall have a signboard, measuring three feet by four feet (3' x 4'), to clearly identify the place as a COMELEC checkpoint from a reasonable distance. The following shall be printed/painted on both sides in bold red letters on a white background;

STOP

COMELEC CHECKPOINT
Please bear with us.
Thank you for your cooperation

Name and Address of Election Officer

Name of Commanding Officer/
Team Leader

SECTION 4. Notice of the location of checkpoints – The commanding officer/team leader of the checkpoint must give notice to the EO, as well as non-governmental organizations and other civic organizations in the area, about the establishments and location of COMELEC checkpoints in the locality.

SECTION 5. Spot checkpoint – Where the circumstances warrant, spot checkpoints may be established in locations other than those mentioned in the preceding section. Before establishing such checkpoint, the coordinating officer/team leader shall give notice to the EO. This notice shall be mandatory.

SECTION 6. Personnel to man checkpoint – Any unit designated to man a COMELEC checkpoint must be led by a regular member of the AFP/PNP with a rank of at least lieutenant/inspector, or in their absence, the most ranking non-commissioned officer.

AFP and PNP personnel manning the checkpoints must be in complete uniform and shall not be under the influence of liquor/drug. Any violation hereof shall make the offender and his commanding officer jointly liable for administrative/criminal action.

SECTION 7. Briefing by the commanding officer/team leader – A briefing must be given by the commanding officer/team leader to all members of the unit designated to man the checkpoints, with emphasis on the proper manner of searching with reasonableness.

SECTION 8. Searching at COMELEC checkpoint – Any search at any COMELEC checkpoint must be made only by members of the unit designated to man the same. It should be done in a manner which will impose minimum of inconvenience upon the person or persons so searched, to the end that civil, political and human rights of the person/s are not violated.

As a rule, valid search must be authorized by a search warrant duly issued by an appropriate authority. However, a warrantless search can be made in the following cases:

(a) moving vehicles and the seizure of evidence in plain view;
(b) as long as the vehicles is neither searched not its occupant/ s subjected to a body search, and the inspection of the vehicle is merely limited;
(c) when the occupant(s) of the vehicle appear to be nervous or suspicious or exhibit unnatural reaction;
(d) if the officer conducting the search has reasonable or probable cause to believe that either the occupant(s) is a law offender or that the instrumentality or evidence pertaining to the commission of a crime can be found in the vehicle to be searched; and
(e) on the basis of prior confidential information which are reasonably corroborated by other attendant matters.

SECTION 9. Rights of person arrested – Any person arrested at a COMELEC checkpoint must be treated humanely and with utmost respect for his constitutional rights. He must be informed of the following rights:

(a) to remain silent, which cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel;
(b) to have competent and independent counsel preferably of his own choice, and if he cannot afford the services of counsel, he must be provided with one, which right cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel;
(c) to be released from detention if no charges have been filed against him within eighteen (18) hours from the arrest, unless he is charged under P.D. 1866, as amended.

SECTION 10. Record of arrest – Any arrest made at a COMELEC checkpoint shall be immediately and chronologically recorded in a logbook for the purpose, stating the circumstances of the arrest and other particulars about the person and confiscated weapons, ammunitions and materials.

The arresting officer shall execute an affidavit of arrest stating clearly and distinctly the facts and circumstances surrounding the arrest.

SECTION 11. Report and turnover of arrested person – Any person arrested at a COMELEC checkpoint including the confiscated weapon, ammunition, and material, must be turned over to the nearest law enforcement station or office together with the corresponding affidavit/s of arrest for proper action. The chief of police/detachment commander concerned, shall conduct a preliminary examination and submit the result thereof to the provincial/city, prosecutor for preliminary investigation, copy furnished the Law Department, Election Officer and their respective operation centers.

The PNP Chief of Police/Station Commander or AFP Detachment Commander shall make a weekly report to the Committee on Firearms and Security Personnel on all arrests made in the implementation of this resolution.

SECTION 12. Report to the Committee on Firearms and Security Personnel – The Committee on Firearms and Security Personnel shall submit to the Commission on Elections a weekly report stating the particulars of all arrests made during the election period.

SECTION 13. Effectivity – This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulations.

SECTION 14. Dissemination – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation, and shall furnish the AFP Chief of Staff, Unit Commanders of the AFP, Company Commander, Battalion Commander, Group Commander, Regimental Commander, Brigade Commander, Division Commander, Area Commander and their equivalents in the Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force, Specified Commands and AFP wide Service Support Unit, the Chief, Philippine National Police (PNP), the PNP Regional Director, Provincial PNP Directors in the ARMM, the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors; and Election Officers of the ARMM copies thereof.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S.B.JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

(Official Business)
RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

(Official Business)
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI–April 30, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

IN THE MATTER OF EXTENDING THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR AUGUST 8, 2005 ARMM ELECTIONS
x————————————x

Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Rufino S.B. Javier
Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Commissioner Virgilio O. Garcillano
Commissioner Manuel A. Barcelona, Jr.
Promulgated: 29 April 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7483

This pertains to the Memorandum dated 27 April 2005 of Commissioner Virgilio O. Garcillano, forwarding the Memorandum of Executive Director Pio Jose S. Joson, relative to the possibility of extending the filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the August 8, 2005 ARMM elections.

The Memorandum of Commissioner Garcillano reads:

"Forwarded herewith is the Urgent Memorandum of Executive Director Pio Jose S. Joson dated 27 April 2005 relative to his study on the possibility of extending the filing of certificate of candidacy for August 8, 2005 ARMM Elections.

The relevant portion of the Memorandum of Director Joson reads:

> *Per original deadline for the filing of certificate of candidacy (April 30, 2005) the total period required to finalize the list of candidates on June 5, 2005 is 36 days. Although this period can still be reduced to 27 days, thus allowing the Commission to extend the deadline of filing of certificates of candidacy at the latest to May 9, 2005, please take note that the periods within which the Commission should act is significantly reduced to their barest minimum, and failure to act within the timelines may compel the Commission to shift from automation to a manual system of election.*

Thus, while the filing of certificate of candidacy may still be extended up to May 9, 2005 at the latest, the time for the Commission to act within the timeline provided for the filing of certificate of candidacy would be greatly reduced.
It is important to take into consideration as a small setback may trigger a chain of events which will lead the Commission to resort back to manual counting."

The Memorandum of Director Joson reads:

"In compliance with your instruction for the Senior Staff to study the possibility of extending the deadline for the above Subject, respectfully submitted are the following comments and observations:

The printing of the automated official ballots will take at least thirty (30) days. Per schedule submitted by the Steering Committee of Phase 2, the printing of the ballots should start on June 20, 2005 in order to afford sufficient time for the 100% verification of the printed ballots. The 100% verification is very essential to ensure that the incident of misaligned ovals that occurred in the Municipality of Pata, Sulu, in 1998, will not be repeated.

Since it will take least fifteen (15) days to prepare the ballot faces for each of the legislative districts in the ARMM, taking into consideration the need to ascertain the correct coordinates/ position of the ovals opposite the names of the candidates, the list of candidates must be finalized and approved by the Commission En Banc not later than June 5, 2005. Per submission of the Steering Committee of Phase 2, any delay in the finalization and approval of the list of candidates will adversely affect the sequence of related preparatory activities.

Attached is the timetable of the different activities related to certificates of candidacy, from filing thereof to the final decision of the Commission in case of petitions to deny due course to a certificate, disqualification of candidates and declaration of nuisance candidates. There are two deadlines which cannot be moved earlier as the same are provided for by law. These are the deadline for the filing of petitions to deny due course, disqualification, and declaration of nuisance candidates, and for the filing of motions for reconsideration relative to decision on aforesaid petitions.

Per original deadline for the filing of certificate of candidacy (April 30, 2005) the total period required to finalize the list of candidates on June 5, 2005 is 36 days. Although this period can still be reduced to 27 days, thus allowing the Commission to extend the deadline of filing of certificates of candidacy at the latest to May 9, 2005, please take note that the periods within which the Commission should act is significantly reduced to their barest minimum, and failure to act within the timelines may compel the Commission to shift from automation to a manual system of election."

The attached time table of the different activities relative to the Certificate of Candidacy is reproduced as follows:

"Final list of candidates – June 5. Immovable because 15 days are needed to finalize ballot face Start of printing of automated ballots – June 20

	9-May	30-April		*Last day to file COC*
Date	*Days*	*Date*	*Days*	
14-May	*5*	*5-May*	*5*	*Last day for filing of petition to deny due course, disqualification, nuisance, etc. (period required by law)*
16	*2*	*8*	*3*	*personal service of summons*
18	*2*	*11*	*3*	*last day to file answer*
19	*1*	*12*	*1*	*hearing*
21	*2*	*15*	*3*	*filing of simultaneous memoranda*
23	*2*	*20*	*5*	*decision & promulgation*
28	*5*	*25*	*5*	*motion for reconsideration (period required by law)*
30	*2*	*27*	*2*	*personal service of notice to parties*
1-Jun	*2*	*30*	*3*	*hearing of motion*
3	*2*	*2-Jun*	*3*	*filing of simultaneous memoranda*
5	*2*	*5*	*3*	*decision & promulgation*
	27		*36*	*Total period required"*

Considering the foregoing, the Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES,** as follows:

1) to approve the recommendation of Acting Executive Director Pio Jose S. Joson, as concurred in by Commissioner Virgilio O. Garcillano, on the time table of the different activities related to the filing of the Certificate of Candidacy with modification as to the dates mentioned as follows:

Date	Days		
	6-May	-	last day to file COC
11-May	5	-	last day for filing of petition to deny due course, disqualification, nuisance, etc. (period required by law)
14	3	-	personal service of summons
17	3	-	last day to file answer
19	2	-	hearing
21	2	-	filing of simultaneous memoranda
23	2	-	decision & promulgation
28	5	-	motion for reconsideration (period required by law)
30	2	-	personal service of notice to parties
1-Jun	2	-	hearing of motion
3	2	-	filing of simultaneous memoranda
5	2	-	decision & promulgation

2) to amend Comelec Resolution No. 7476 entitled "GUIDELINES ON THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY AND NOMINATION OF OFFICIAL CANDIDATES OF REGISTERED

POLITICAL PARTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 8, 2005 REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO" promulgated 21 April 2005, particularly Sections 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16 and 18, **to now reads as follows:**

"x x x x x x x x x

SEC. 1. Certificate of Candidacy. x x x

b) x x x However, before the expiration of the period for the filing of certificate of candidacy, on or before midnight of **MAY 6, 2005**, he may declare under oath the office for which he desires to be eligible and cancel the certificate of candidacy for the other office or offices. x x x

x x x x x x x x x

SEC. 5. Period for filing certificate of candidacy. – The certificate of candidacy shall be filed beginning **APRIL 22, 2005 TO MAY 6, 2005** for all elective positions in the ARMM on regular days during office hours except on the last day, which shall up to midnight.

No certificate of candidacy and/or party nomination shall be received after 12:00 o'clock midnight of **MAY 6, 2005**, except in cases of proper and valid substitution under Section 14 hereof.

x x x x x x x x x

SEC. 6. Certificate of nomination of official candidates by the political party. – The certificate of nomination of registered political parties or coalitions of political parties of their official candidates shall be filed not later than the last day for filing of certificates of candidacy, which is **MAY 6, 2005,** x x x x x x

For this purpose, all registered political parties shall submit to the Law Department not later than **MAY 4, 2005**, the authorized signatories to official nominations of their respective candidates as provided under the Constitution and by-laws of the registered political party concerned, attaching a copy thereof to the nomination.

SEC. 8. - Ministerial duty of receiving and acknowledging receipt of certificates of candidacy/ nomination; Recording. – The receiving officer as provided for in Section 3 hereof shall have the ministerial duty to receive and acknowledge receipt of the certificates of candidacy/nomination by registered political parties or coalition of political parties on or before **MAY 6, 2005**, the deadline for filing of certificates of candidacy. x x x x x x

Immediately after 12:00 o'clock midnight of **MAY 6, 2005,** the receiving official shall close the record book by placing a line immediately after the last entry writing the word "closed". x x x x x x

SEC. 10. – Reports on the delivery of certificates of candidacy. – On **MAY 7, 2005**, the receiving officer shall report, by rush telegram or any available fastest means of communication to the Commission through the Law Department, a complete list of candidates who have filed their certificates of candidacy as entered in the record book.

x x x x x x x x x

Within forty-eight (48) hours from **MAY 6, 2005,** the record book containing the record of the certificates of candidacy/ nomination received, list of candidates and all copies of the certificates of candidacy/nomination filed with the offices as provided in Section 3 hereof, shall, except one copy to be retained for file, be delivered personally to the Law Department, Commission in Manila by the following:

1) Regional Election Director, ARMM – For Regional Governor and Regional Vice-Governor.
2) Provincial Election Supervisor – For Members of the Regional Assembly.

SEC. 16. – Nuisance Candidates. x x x x x x

A verified petition to declare a duly registered candidate as a nuisance candidate shall be filed personally or through duly authorized representative with the Commission by any registered candidate within five (5) days from the last day for filing certificate of candidacy, or not later than **MAY 11, 2005.**

x x x x x x x x x

SEC. 18. – Where to file petitions to declare a candidate as nuisance, to deny due course or cancel certificate of candidacy. - Petitions to declare a candidate as nuisance, or to deny due course to or cancel certificate of candidacy shall be filed with the following offices:

1) OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR (RED) OR ASSISTANT REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR (ARED) AT ZAMBOANGA CITY OR MARAWI CITY, RESPECTIVELY	-	**FOR REGIONAL GOVERNOR AND REGIONAL VICE-GOVERNOR**
2) OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR CONCERNED	-	**FOR MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

FOR SPEEDY DISPOSITION OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PETITIONS, THE COMMISSION HEREBY DELEGATES TO THE REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR (RED) OR ASSISTANT REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR (ARED) OF ARMM AND THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR CONCERNED, THE HEARING AND RECEPTION OF EVIDENCE.

THE SENIOR STAFF SHALL PREPARE THE RULES DELEGATING TO THE REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR (RED) OR ASSISTANT REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR (ARED) OF ARMM AND THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR CONCERNED THE HEARING AND RECEPTION OF EVIDENCE FOR PETITIONS TO DECLARE A CANDIDATE AS NUISANCE, TO DENY DUE COURSE OR CANCEL CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY.

3) to likewise amend Comelec Resolution No. 7478 entitled "CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF CERTAIN PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 08, 2005 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO" promulgated 22 April 2005, particularly the last day for filing Certificate of Candidacy for the said ARMM elections, **to now read as follows:**

"x x x x x x x x x

April 22 to MAY 6, 2005	**Period for filing of Certificate of Candidacy**

x x x x x x x x x"

Let the Executive Director implement this resolution with dispatch, and the Education and Information Department to effect the publication hereof in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

Cc: Chairman
All Commissioners
Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Education and Information Department

(PDI - April 30, 2005)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In view of the non-working holiday on 02 May 2005 please be informed that the bidding for the supply of maximum 100,000 MT, 5% MOLSO yellow corngrains on 03 May 2005 is hereby moved from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the same date at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Submission of bids will be from 1:00 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.

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(PDI - April 30, 2005)

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Notice is hereby given that the GSIS HOUSING LOAN application of the late RITCHIE M. DUQUE with account no. HMOD210017 housing address at Blk.36 lot 4, Magnolia Street, Modesta Village II San Mateo Rizal was extrajudicially settled by her heirs by means of Public Document executed on March 30, 2005 and ratified before Atty. Isidro V. Almenteros, Notary Public in the City of Manila on March 31, 2005, as per Doc. No. 369, Page No. 108, Book No. XXXX; Series of 2005 of his Notarial Register
PDI-April 16, 23 & 30, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUIS P. CHUALONG has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 139, Page No. 28, Book No. 150, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Rafael P. Mateo of Tanay, Rizal.
(April 30, May 7 & 14, 2005)

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We invite qualified applicants to join our company in our expansion program.

1. Sales Engineer for GSM/GPRS/3G

Main Responsibilities
- Planning competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats, for the accounts together with the Account Manager.
- Supporting pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering customer technical presentation and demonstration
- Marketing Huawei product and network concept and solutions
- Supporting all product promotion related activities
- Developing and managing regional channel partners of data communications products and establish regional channel system (Product Manager of Data Communication).

Requirements
- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Computer Science or relevant area
- Minimum 2 years experience in related field
- Solid technical background of Telecommunications
- Planning and presentation delivering skills
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English.

2. Survey& Design Engineer

Main Responsibility:
- Study and understand BOQ (Bill of Quantity) that is created by marketing section.
- Study and understand NETWORK DIAGRAM that is designed by marketing section.
- Prepare Survey Plan, on-site Survey Documentation and Survey Tools after obtain Requisition for Site Survey which launched from marketing section.
- Perform On-site Survey in Capital, Provinces, City and Small town, Output draft of Layout drawing and Site Survey Report.
- Create , Design and Edit Engineering Drawing (AutoCAD) such as Floor Layout, Equipment Layout Cable Routing Layout etc.
- Plan, Cooperate, Manage, Supervise, Training, Guide and Inspect Sub-contractors to do On-site Survey , Task Progress , Survey Report and Engineering Drawing in the middle & large scale project.
- Carefully and seriously Review Site Survey Report submitted by Product Line Engineer and Local Sub-contractors.
- Integrate and Fill in Huawei Standard Survey Report to H/Q Manufacturer in China.
- Cooperate with Project Team and relevant department staff during equipment manufacture , equipment installation and project implementation period.

Requirements:
- At least Bachelor Degree in Telecommunication Engineering and related fields.
- More than 2-3 years of experience on Telecom Engineering is preferred and top-priority.
- Good English ability in the Reading, Writing and Conversation.
- Good Consciousness of cooperation with Product Manager, Product Engineers, Project Teams and Local Sub-contractors or Agent.
- Good Consciousness of Services to Customer
- Background knowledge in the Wireless Network (GSM, GPRS, CDMA,WCDMA), Fixed Network (Narrowband SWITCHING, AN, DATACOM, BROADBAND), Transmission Network (DWDM, SDH, PDH), and Service and Software (INTELLIGENT NETWORK, Value-added) will be advantaged.
- Good skill in software: Microsoft Office, AutoCAD, Microsoft Project, Power Point.
- Able to travel to whole Capital, Provinces, City and Small Town, even Overseas if any.

3. Bidding Design Engineer

Main Responsibilities:
- To complete overseas project survey design by making use of engineering design platform
- Provide bidding support to overseas projects in respect of survey design and ensure smooth engineering survey and construction
- Assist in collecting and sorting out information about engineering design, timely report various investigation data and provide fundamental basis for the perfection of project bidding and design information system

Main Requirements:
- Bachelor degree or above majoring in Electronics, Electrical, Telecommunications, Computer or related area.
- At least 3 years of related systems and project engineering experience in the telecommunications environment.
- Experience in both a service provider and equipment vendor environment preferred.
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills.
- Heavy business travels in the Asia Pacific region will be required.
- Ability to converse in Mandarin will be an added advantage.

4. Radio Network Planning & Radio Network Optimization Engineer

Responsibilities and main tasks:
- Be responsible for 2G&3G radio network design and radio network performance improvement service delivery.
- Be responsible for technical marketing and sales support of network and technology consulting services.
- Be response radio network evaluate.
- Be responsible network parameters design.
- Be responsible optimization.

Requirement:
- University degree or above in electronic / telecommunications engineering, science or a relevant area.
- Fluent in English
- At least 2 years working experience in GSM or CDMA, WCDMA is preferred.
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations.
- Good Communication skills and ability to work in multi-cultural environment.
- Self-motivated, customer oriented

5. GSM/CDMA Technical Support Engineer

Responsibilities and main tasks:
- Solve the GSM network technical problem
- Daily maintenance of responsible GSM/CDMA network
- Implementation of GSM or CDMA network engineering

Requirement:
- College or above education background in telecom or electronics
- At least 1 year experience in electric or telecom engineering area
- Good command in English
- Teamwork spirit with enthusiasm
- Good customer handling skills
- Good Computer knowledge and experience with GSM or CDMA networking are required.

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J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 444-5528
Cell. No. (0918) 532-6322

Bataan
Ms. Loudette Banzon
308 Sampaguita St.
Doña Francisca, Balanga City, Bataan
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Fax No. (047) 7916152

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Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayrit
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Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-0616, (043) 980-8542

Lipa City
Ms. Rose Perce
c/o NYK Insurance Rm. 2, RSSA Bldg.
Rizal St., Lipa City
Tel. Nos. (043)312-2408/756-1330

Bulacan
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
253 Rizal Street, Tarcan, Bulacan, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1280
Cell. No. (0917) 882106

Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
47 Santander Street,
Kapit Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0823

Nueva Vizcaya
Hanmier John L. Manzano c/o Ms. Janey Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Pasason North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax Nos. (078) 326/172/326-7776
Cell. No. (0917) 848-3069

Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabrera
Lot 4 Block 29 Phase II
corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets,
St. Jude Village San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3718 (0918) 505-6249
Gonzaga Building, Dolores Homesite,
MacArthur Highway,
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
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E-mail: chenum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
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Cell. No. (0917) 448-0251
Fax No. (045) 982-1755

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Maunlad Pueblo Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
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Cell. No. (0917) 530-1859
Store #250 J.P. Rizal Street,
Cabuyao, Laguna
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Isabela
Ms. Alice Pua Uy
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Rizal Street, Cabagan, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 652-2279

Legazpi City
Ms. Irene Solentrano
Brgy. 34 Oro Site, Legazpi City
Tel. Nos. (052) 820-1274/480-5099/ 8208402
Cathy P. Sandin
SM Peleta Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legazpi City
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Mr. Ramon S. Sia
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Mr. Marcelo Espino
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Quezon City
Mr. Antonio Feliciano c/o Ms. Jean Germalin Enterprise
207 Tandang Sora Avenue,
Culiat, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 951-7468/921-6108

Rizal
Mr. Jesus Dimagiba
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Cebu Daily News
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Tel. No. (032) 232-7618
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Rm. 201 Jesever Bldg. 2
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Fuente Osmeña St., Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 256-1954
(0927) 4651068

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Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5795/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Reno's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182

Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018

Iloilo
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
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Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
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GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
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INTRODUCTION

American Power Conversion provides protection against many of the primary causes of data loss, hardware damage and downtime. Founded in 1981, APC is a leading provider of global, end-to-end AC and DC-based back-up power products and services, which include surge suppressors, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), power conditioning equipment, power management software, and DC power systems as well as precision cooling equipment, and professional and consulting services for Nonstop Networking™. APC, known for Legendary Reliability™, sets the standard for quality, innovation and support for power protection solutions from desktop systems to data center operations to entire facilities. Its comprehensive solutions, which are designed for both home and corporate environments, improve the manageability, availability and performance of sensitive electronic, network, communication and industrial equipment of all sizes.

GLOBAL PRESENCE

APC's corporate offices are located in West Kingston, Rhode Island. The Company has sales offices throughout the world; manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Ireland, Switzerland, Philippines, China, India, and Brazil; and ships product to over 150 countries. In 2003, 50% of APC's revenues were in the Americas (North and Latin America), 32% was in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and 18% was in Asia. As of December 31, 2003, APC had approximately 6,365 full-time employees worldwide.

KEY APPLICATION AREAS

Today, the Company focuses its efforts on four key application areas:
Home/Home Office
Business Networks
Access Provider Networks
Data Centers and Facilities

JOB POSTINGS

ENGINEERS Manufacturing, Product engineering, Production, Mechanical Engineering, Magnetics and Purchasing.
TECHNICIANS Production, Repair and maintenance and Quality Control
OTHERS Production Supervisors, Team Leads for Production

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

- 3 years experience in Product Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Manufacturing Purchasing, Manufacturing Planning or Project Management
- 5 years minimum experience in Project Management and Manufacturing Engineering or equivalent for senior engineering posts.
- Knowledgeable in Manufacturing Operations, background in Electronics with PCB and Final Assembly and system writing, an advantage
- 2 years supervisor experience for Production Supervisors with strong functional background in Production

Interested applicants may send their resumés at:
APCHRPhl.Recruitment@apcc.com.
You may also visit our plant at Lot 10 Blk 16 Phase IV
PEZA, Rosario, Cavite
or call us at telephone number 046-4371506.

APC Legendary Reliability™

We are a wholesale operation of both local and imported hardware products with a nationwide distribution. The company boasts of three satellite branches in the Philippines located in the three major island groups Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. As part of our expansion program, we are currently in need of dynamic and assertive individual to fill in the position of:

SALES TEAM MANAGER

Requirements :
- ✓ Male / Female (Single or Married)
- ✓ 28 years old & above
- ✓ 3 years & above field sales experience
- ✓ 2 years sales supervisory experience
- ✓ With experience in handling a sales group
- ✓ Strong leadership skills
- ✓ Excellent presentation skills

COLLECTOR / CREDIT INVESTIGATOR

Requirements :
- ✓ Male (Single or Married)
- ✓ Between 24 to 35 years old
- ✓ College graduate of any four year course
- ✓ At least 1 year experience in credit investigation and collection function
- ✓ Willing to travel
- ✓ Preferably knows how to drive a motorcycle

SALESMAN / SALESWOMAN

Requirements:
- ✓ Male / Female (Single or Married)
- ✓ Between 24 to 35 years old
- ✓ College graduate of any four year course
- ✓ At least 1-2 years experience in any consumer products.
- ✓ Experience in handling dealers will be an advantage.
- ✓ Willing to travel

For Visayas and Mindanao applicants, you may send your resumé with contact number to our designated Postal Office Box No. Those who will be qualified will be interviewed in our Visayas and Mindanao Offices.

Applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo by e-mail to : mjane0823@yahoo.com or by mail to : Box 100 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor Building B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City

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Crown Systems International, Inc.

We are a provider of IT driven Project Management Systems and we represent PRIMAVERA SYSTEMS of USA. We help our clients successfully manage their businesses by implementing project management systems. We are looking for competent and passionate individuals, to fill the following positions for our 2005 expansion.

Account Manager (1)
- Female, at least 25 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Computer literate, familiar with popular application software
- Good in oral and written communication
- Willing to work overtime
- Willing to take on field work
- With pleasing & outgoing personality
- Previous sales experience a plus but not required.

Sales Assistant (1)
- Female, at least 25 years of age
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Computer literate, familiar with popular application softwares
- Good in oral and written communication

Technical Support / Product Engineer (1)
- Male, at least 20 years of age
- Bachelor's Degree in any Engineering Field
- With good analytical skills
- Can communicate well
- Willing to work overtime and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned out of town
- Programming skills in VBA and Java preferable
- Knowledge in Project Management Software Tools (e.g. MS Project, Primavera) preferable, but not required

Competitive compensation package inclusive of basic salary, allowance, incentives and commissions for sales positions.

Interested parties are requested to send their resumés with photo to :

Crown Systems International, Inc.
Unit 1011, 10th Floor, Herrera Tower
98 V.A. Rufino Tower cor. Valero Streets
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
or email at egascon@crownsys.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that on Dec. 1, 2004, the National Capital Judicial Region, Metropolitan Trial Court, Branch 64, Makati City, has issued a **Warrant of Arrest** in connection with **Criminal Case No. 331228** entitled "People of the Philippines versus **Donnabelle Alva, Accused**" for the arrest of the said accused **Donnabelle Alva**, wife of **Arnold A. Alva of Aerospan Travel and Tours, Inc.**, located at **No. 171, Alley 1, Project 6, Quezon City.**

Any information on her whereabouts leading to her arrest can be forwarded to Tel. No. 8331207 or cellphone No. 09172098956.

(PDI--April 23, 24, 30 & May 1, 2005)

URGENTLY NEEDED BY GARMENTS TRADING CO.

MERCHANDISER

Male or Female w/ export experience and adept in handling & working with different factories & different types of garments. Can understand patterns, computer literate & fluent in oral/ written English.

PURCHASING STAFF (ACCESSORIES)

Male or Female, with 3 years experience in a garment factory as purchaser. With extensive contacts of trims supplier, computer literate & fluent in oral / written English. Must be honest and hardworking

SAMPLE MAKER

Male or Female, at least high school graduate 25-35 years old with 3-5 years export experience in garments. Must be honest, hardworking and a team player.

CUTTER / SPREADER

Male 25-35 years old, with knowledge in pattern, can understand and evaluate markers. Honest, hardworking and willing to work long hours with minimum supervision.

FAX RESUMÉ to 788-03-77
or e-mail it to marla@garmentsasia.com

APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO WORK IN SUCAT PARAÑAQUE AREA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Malampaya Development Project will offer the following items for public sale at its Batangas Warehouse located in the Port of Batangas:

- Scrap metal
- Mokveld valve and heat exchanger
- Used office equipments
- Used computer equipments
- Electrical items and offer misc. items

Bidders may receive a complete list of items and bid form. To inspect the items please call Telephone No. (043) 723-0302

Abbott Laboratories

"To be the Premier Healthcare Company in the Philippines" is our vision. The existence of Abbott in the country for more than 60 years is a tangible expression of this commitment, providing innovative products and services that span the continuum of care — from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure.

PHARMACOVIGILANCE AND CLINICAL RESEARCH OFFICER

- Responsible for pharmacovigilance operations on drug, nutritionals and medical devices;
- Lead the development and implementation of standard operating procedures/policies related to pharmacovigilance;
- Review medical literature for assessment and reportability of adverse events associated with drugs, nutritionals and medical devices;
- Conduct the assessment, investigation, coordination, follow-up and close out of reports of adverse patient experiences associated with marketed and investigational pharmaceuticals, nutritionals and devices;
- Prepare reports for ultimate submission to the local Regulatory Agency and to International Regulatory authorities;
- Acts as the affiliate Clinical Research personnel, including evaluation and analysis of both clinical and post marketing drug and/or device report.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Licensed Health Professional;
- At least 2 years experience in pharmaceutical industry in the areas of pharmacovigilance, medical affairs and clinical trials/quality assurance audits;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, able to work with people from various disciplines;
- Keen ability to develop SOPs and flow processes;
- Well versed in GCP principles and applications;
- Adept in all aspects of clinical trial and PMS development and management.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their updated resumés detailing work experience to:
Human Resources Department – Recruitment (Code:PCRO) ABBOTT Laboratories, 102 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.
To apply on-line, visit us at: **www.abbottrecruitment.com.ph**

Only short listed candidates shall be scheduled for interview. Previous applicants need not apply.
Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd , South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

45th TESDA BOARD MEETING
18 March 2005, Friday, 1 30 p m
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-04

APPROVING AND PROMULGATING THE TRAINING REGULATIONS FOR TRANSPORT RAC SERVICING NCII AND RAC SERVICING NCI (WINDOW TYPE AIR-CONDITIONING/DOMESTIC REFRIGERATION)

WHEREAS, during the Standard Setting and Systems Development – TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 14 March 2005, the Training Regulations for Transport RAC Servicing NCII and RAC Servicing NCI (Window Type Air-Conditioning/Domestic Refrigeration) were deliberated and favorably recommended/endorsed to the TESDA Board for approval;

WHEREAS, the Technical Experts have endorsed for promulgation the following Training Regulations:
1. Transport RAC Servicing NCII
2. RAC Servicing NCI
(Window Type Air-Conditioning/Domestic Refrigeration)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates the Training Regulations for Transport RAC Servicing, NCII and RAC Servicing NCI (Window Type Air-Conditioning/Domestic Refrigeration);

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations (TR) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs under these training regulations must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system

Adopted this 18th March 2005.

(Sgd.) MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO
Board Secretary VI

Attested by.

(Sgd.) PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Chair, TESDA Board
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd., South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

45th TESDA BOARD MEETING
18 March 2005, Friday, 1.30 p.m
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-03
(page 1 of 2 pages)

Approving, Promulgating and Authorizing the Publication of the Reformatted Training Regulations for Deck Seafaring NCII, Engine Seafaring NCII, Commercial Cooking NCII, Food and Beverage Service NCII, Travel Service NCII, Tour Guiding Service NCII, Housekeeping NCII, Bartending NCII, Carpentry NCII, Masonry NCII, Dressmaking NCII, Tailoring NCII, Plumbing NCII, Building Wiring Installation NCII, Machining NCII and Computer Hardware Servicing NCII

WHEREAS, the TESDA Board promulgated Training Regulations for the following qualifications in the old format

- 18th TESDA Board Meeting, 13 May 1998
  1. Deck Seafaring NCII
  2. Engine Seafaring NCII
- 19th TESDA Board Meeting, 12 August 1998
  3. Commercial Cooking NCII
  4. Food and Beverage Service NCII
  5. Travel Service NCII
  6. Tour Guiding Service NCII
  7. Housekeeping NCII
  8. Bartending NCII
- 22nd TESDA Board Meeting, 25 February 1999
  9. Machining NCII
  10. Computer Hardware Servicing NCII
- 24th TESDA Board Meeting, 8 July 1999
  11. Dressmaking NCII
  12. Tailoring NCII

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd , South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

45th TESDA BOARD MEETING
18 March 2005, Friday, 1 30 p m
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-___
(page 2 of 2 pages)

- 25th TESDA Board Meeting, 23 September 1999
  13. Carpentry NCII
  14. Masonry NCII
- 40th TESDA Board Meeting, 4 December 2003
  15. Building Wiring Installation NCII
  16. Plumbing NCII

WHEREAS, the above mentioned Training Regulations have been formatted in accordance with the Framework adopted in Board Resolution No. 2005-13;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates these training regulations as reformatted in accordance with the Framework adopted in Board Resolution No. 2004-13;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs registered prior to this promulgation must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs within one year after their publication. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 18th March 2005

(Sgd.) MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

(Sgd.) PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Chair, TESDA Board
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment

(PDI--April 30 & May 2, 2005)

Fast pace entrepreneurship seeks a highly motivated individual ready to grow with company. We will provide the training and support to reach your highest expectations. Candidate must have good mathematical skill and know-how to operate a computer. Please send resumé to americantrustpro@aol.com

---

ACCOUNTANT

Female, preferably CPA
At least 2 yrs working experience
Computer literate
636-0446 / 632-9615 Glo / Paz / Jhee
NAOMI-MEGAMALL Mandaluyong City

Gloria Maris Restaurant – Greenhills branch is in need of the ff:

WAITER – must have at least 1 yr. experience in a restaurant, 5'5 in height, 22-28 years old, single.
RECEPTIONIST – must be attractive, 5'4 in height, 20-26 yrs. old, single
We offer minimum salary and free meals. Call & look for Alex Buiza at 722-5508 to 10 for more information.

We are Urgently in need of:

WAITER and COOK

Qualifications:
- Male / Female, 23 – 28 yrs old (Waiter)
- Male, at least 27 yrs old and above (Cook)
- At least 5'6 inches and above
- At least College Level
- Can Speak and Understand English Well
- At least 2 yrs experience in Waitering on Restaurant & Banquet Operation (Fine Dining)
- At least 2 yrs experience on Hot & Cold Food Section
- Hard Working and with full dedication to the job, efficient and responsible.
- Can do Multi-tasking with minimum supervision
- Flexible Time Schedule

Qualified applicants may send their detail resumé to:

PARQUE ESPAÑA RESIDENCE HOTEL
Food & Beverage Department
5309 East Asia Drive, Alabang, FCC, Muntinlupa City
or send it through email at parqueespana@hii.com.ph

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

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To know more, visit www.ephilam.com and send your resume to the 23/F Philamlife Tower Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
or email address Philam.jobs@aig.com

Philam Savings Bank and AIG Credit Card Company Phils., Inc. ,

member companies of the CONSUMER FINANCE GROUP (CFG) of AIG, the leading US – based international insurance organization and the PHILAM GROUP, are inviting dynamic professionals and fresh graduates to explore these career opportunities:

PHILAM SAVINGS BANK

Relationship Officers (Code: RLO)

- Must have 2- 3 years experience in selling bank products and services and soliciting deposit and/term accounts from prospective clients
- Preference is for candidates with existing network and portfolio of high net worth clients.

Sales Officers (Code: SLO)

- Must have 2-3 years experience in selling bank products and services and soliciting deposit/ term accounts from prospective clients
- Preference is for candidates with existing portfolio and network of bank clients from the Makati or Quezon City areas

Customer Service Representatives (Code: CSR)
Universal Tellers (Code: UT)
Collection Staff (Code: CS)
Loans Processors (Code: LP)
Human Resource Assistant (Code: HRA)

- These positions are open to fresh graduates with pleasant disposition, customer service orientation and well developed communication and interpersonal skills.
- Must be computer literate.

Paralegal Assistant (Code: PRA)

- Must be graduate of Legal Management or related course
- Must have at least 6 months experience in preparing and filling legal documents and performing liaison work with judicial courts and other government agencies.

AIG AIG Credit Card Company Philippines, Inc.

Financial Reporting & Control Manager (Code: FRCM)

- Must be an Accounting major and a CPA
- Must have 2 –3 years experience in preparing financial statements reports, internal control/ external compliance reports and budget related reports, in a supervisory capacity
- Exposure in computerized accounting system is an advantage

Accounting Assistants (Code: AA)

- Must be an Accounting graduate
- Preferably with experience in general accounting work
- Must have keen sense for details & willing to work long hours
- Must be computer literate

Customer Service Associates (Code: CSA)
Telemarketing Associates (Code: TMA)
Collection Associates (Code: CA)

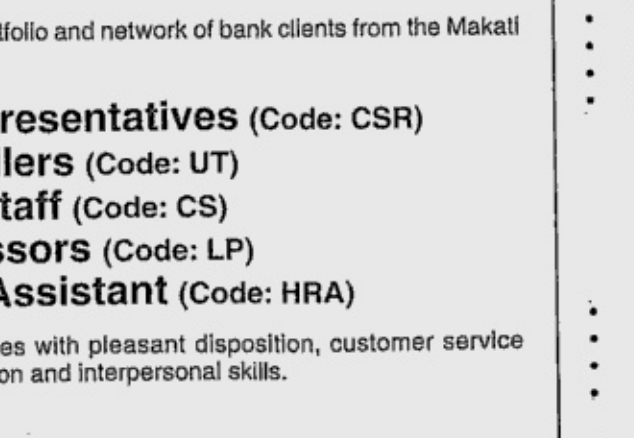
- Must be graduate of any business course
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With strong customer service, sales & marketing orientation
- Applicants for TMA and CA must have determination to exceed assigned targets and work under pressure
- Applicants for CSA must be willing to adapt to a flexible work schedule
- Computer literate and a good team player

Interested applicants are advised to bring or send their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photos to:

For Bank positions:
Code: _____
Human Resources Division
2/F Salustiana D. Ty Tower,
104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village,
Makati City 1229
e-mail: PSB_Recruitment@aig.com

For Credit Card positions:
Code: _____
Human Resources Division
16/F San Miguel Properties Center
St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas,
Mandaluyong City
e-mail: AIGPHCC_Recruitment@aig.com

Now on-line at
www.inquirer.net
JOB Market



From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

A progressive snack food manufacturing company is in immediate need of:

Management Trainee
- Male, single, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Baking Plant Supervisor
- Male or Female, age 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry, Chemical Engineering
- Has a Certificate of Attendance from a Baker's Skills Training Course
- Knowledgeable in bakery ingredients and materials evaluation
- Highly skilled in the hands-on preparation and baking of biscuits, breads, cakes, cookies, pastries, and other specialty bakery items.
- With good skills in material control and warehousing.
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Quality Control / Research and Development Technician
- Male or Female, single, age 22 to 26 years old
- Computer literate, graduate of Food Tech., Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or Industrial Engineering
- At least 1 year experience in Quality Control / Quality Assurance and/ or Research and Development work.
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Mechanical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Preferably licensed.
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Has supervisory experience.
- Computer literate, knowledge in Autocad is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in machine troubleshooting, preventive maintenance and fabrication.

Electrical Engineer
- Graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering
- Preferably licensed.
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Can supervise or lead a team.
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting.

Architectural Designer
- Graduate of B.S. Architecture
- At least 2 years work experience.
- Has supervisory experience.
- Knowledgeable in computer aided design and drafting.

Agriculturist/Agronomist
- Male/Female, at least 28 years old.
- Degree holder of B.S. Agronomy, or B.S. Agriculture major in Agronomy.
- Experienced in Root Crop Farm Supervision/Management, knowledgeable in tuber growing, pest control, post-harvest handling and storage.
- Preferably fluent in speaking conversational Mandarin
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Interior Designer
- B.S. Interior Design graduate
- At least 2 years work experience in interior designing
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD 2000 or higher version
- Able to render perspective drawing
- Able to prepare bill of materials/project estimates
- Willing to be assigned abroad.

Warehouse Supervisor
- College graduate
- At least 3 years experience in warehousing operation
- Willing to be assigned in Cavite.

Graphic Artist
- Degree in Fine Arts or Advertising
- Must be proficient in computer 2D graphics applications such as Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator/Freehand/CorelDraw and AutoCAD
- Preferably with experience in a creative job position

Accounting Clerk
- Female, single, age 22 to 30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- With or without experience.

Telephone Operator / Receptionist
- Female, single, age 22 to 28 years old
- College graduate, with pleasing personality
- Excellent English & Filipino verbal communication & listening skills.

Salaries are commensurate to qualifications:
Interested applicants may send their complete resumés and credentials/references (including 2" x 2" ID photo) to:
HRD Manager, 2225 Tolentino St., Pasay City 1300
or E-mail to hrdmanager2004@yahoo.com (with attached ID photo)
Please indicate the position you are applying for.

IT OUTSOURCE GROUP OF COMPANIES

MTC ACADEMY · ACCUTYPE MEDICAL SERVICES · IT Outsource · InnovaQuest

"The Leaders in Medical Transcription"

BE PART OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAM

We are looking for: fresh graduates or those with 2 years work experience to join our young, but industry-recognized company for expansion, we only welcome applicants who have: a thirst for knowledge, a passion for excellence, a commitment to hard work, and a dedication to corporate goals and vision.

We allow for flexible time schedule in an unstructured work environment where creativity is encouraged.

Applicants must: have excellent communication skills both written and oral, be willing to work long hours, be a self starter, and a team player, possess strong organizational and interpersonal skills, be able to work under pressure, and must have a working knowledge of MS Office and the Internet.

ACADEMY:

MEDICAL LECTURERS – must be a Doctor of Medicine, loves to teach in a creative manner and can make learning fun, full-time or part time basis,
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION MENTORS – must have at least a year of MT experience, full time basis
FACULTY COORDINATORS – exposure in school administration, scheduling and planning
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINORS

HOLDING COMPANY:

Marketing Officers
Franchise Sales Executives
Franchise Operations Officers
Franchise Account Executives
HR Officer - exposure in all aspects of human resource management
IT Officers - knowledgeable in ASP, Visual Basic, SQL Server, good in documentation and standardization of IT processes and systems
Accounting Officers - preferably CPA
Finance Officer
IT/Technical Support Staff
Software Development Officers

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION PRODUCTION:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS
QA OFFICERS/TEAM LEADERS
OPERATIONS HEAD

MTC ACADEMY BRANCHES & FRANCHISES

CAVITE CITY; EAST AVENUE; DILIMAN; BUENDIA; MAKATI; CALOOCAN; SUCAT; PQUE; BATANGAS CITY; DASMARINAS CAVITE (soon to open); BACOLOD; TAFT & UNIVERSITY BELT

e-mail: hrd@mtcacademy.com / www.mtcacademy.com

G/F Urban Bldg. 405 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel-Air., Makati City

PRISM — PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING · USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Scope of Work
Private Sector Liaison Officer

Background:

PRISM supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers. Each component of the PRISM project requires collaboration with national, regional, and local associations and their affiliates and the private sector liaison officer will be responsible for managing relationships with those associations and facilitating access to them by other PRISM project team members.

General Tasks for the position include but not limited to:

1. Act as field coordinator with designated private sector partners
2. Prepare for and conduct business development activities in areas identified as targets of opportunity
3. Conduct initial scanning of the identified geographic areas to include business associations, service firms, professional medical and para-medical associations in terms of potential for expansion of FP service provision and make corresponding recommendations
4. Work with PRISM technical and management staff to implement approaches and strategies to counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as faith-based groups

Reporting:

The private sector liaison officer will report directly to PRISM technical operations director or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the liaison officer's overall performance.

Qualifications (Private Sector Liaison Officer)

- Experience in marketing of products in the commercial healthcare industry
- Previous managerial experience
- Networking experience with health provider associations, pharmaceutical industry associations, business organizations is an advantage
- Proficient in WORD, Excel, Powerpoint

Complete Scope Of Work available upon request. Please email all resumes to jobs@prism.org.ph on or before May 6 2005.

LEPANTO CERAMICS, INC.
MAKER OF LEPANTO TILES

SALES (ACCOUNT) EXECUTIVE (South Luzon & NCR)

He will be tasked to develop distributors network and system that will effectively service the customers. Must have at least 2 years selling experience in fast moving consumer products, with knowledge in product presentation and collection. A graduate of Business Admin. / Eng'g. courses. Keen and analytical with excellent interpersonal & leadership skills, highly motivated, articulate and self-starter, willing to travel, can speak fookien language is an advantage.

PROJECT OFFICER

B.S. Architecture or B.S. Civil Eng'g. graduate, with at least 2 years experience in project development and construction, can effectively interacts with architects and engineers. Excellent in oral and written communication, with proficiency in windows application, willing to travel, aggressive, innovative, goal oriented.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Graduate of BS Ceramic or Chemical Eng'g. with at least 3 years experience in ceramics manufacturing with strong planning and leadership skills. Possesses high degree of reliability and can work under pressure. Good in oral and written communication.

A competitive remuneration package and benefits awaits successful candidates, interested parties are advised to send comprehensive resumé with picture and photocopy of TOR to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
LEPANTO CERAMICS, INC.
Km. 53 Makiling, Calamba City
Tel. # (049) 545-1868 / 545-2449 Fax # (049) 545-2314 / 545-2413
Email: fel-an@softhome.net

Reedley International School

urgently needs:

Curriculum Development Specialist
- Master's Degree Holder in Elem/Sec Education

High School Teachers of
- Math · Chemistry · Physics
- English · Social Studies · Filipino

Part-Time Foreign Language Teachers
- Mandarin · French · Spanish
- Japanese · Korean · ESL Teachers

*** The above positions are for Graduates of UP/ADMU/DLSU/UST**

Registered Female Nurse with at least 3 years Hospital Experience

Submit your resumé, Transcript of Records, Diploma & License to:
MONA RIZELLE D. AUSTRIA
JNCV Bldng., Pasig Blvd. Corner Rosemarie Lane, Pasig City

TA PHILIPPINES, INC.

AN EXPORT-ORIENTED CORPORATION

IMMEDIATELY NEEDS:

PROCESS ENGINEER
- BS Chemical Engineering Graduate or BS Chemistry Graduate
- Male, 23 to 35 years old
- With experience in a manufacturing firm

Qualified applicants can send in their resumé with recent 1 x 1 photo to:

TA PHILIPPINES, INC.
The Personnel Office
Km. 23 Ortigas Ave. Ext.,
Cainta, Rizal 1900

moog

We are an organization based in the state of New York U.S.A., a recognized world leader in the design and manufacture of high performance precision control systems for commercial aviation and industrial use. Our manufacturing facility at the Baguio Economic Zone is inviting applications for the following:

BENCHWORK FINISHERS

The job calls for a person capable of performing various hand deburring on valve, actuator and machine parts using hand motors, abrasives & hand tools, to ensure burr free/dirt free condition on parts. Person would perform sub-assembly with engineering procedures as may be assigned, and be responsible for quality of work & minor gage & equipment maintenance.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- A high school graduate
- With one (1) year work experience in trades requiring fine eye-hand coordination on small detailed parts
- Possesses manual skills in working with the manufacture of small to medium sized parts
- Has the ability to work with instructions, engineering procedures and operation sheets
- Capable of light to medium physical demands

JUNIOR MACHINE OPERATORS

The job entails operating and inspecting part outputs on a variety of CNC and/or conventional machine shop equipments ie., drills, CNC lathes/mills, reams, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Three (3) year mechanical/technical/BSIT/BSIE major in machine shop; or High School graduate with general machine shop; or three (3) year engineering with technical mechanical subjects
- For High School graduate with general machine shop course completed, at least two (2) years exposure in related machine shop production activities
- Has skills in blueprint reading, interpretation of charts, usage of basic shop measuring instruments
- Has special knowledge of machining principles and shop mathematics

MACHINE OPERATORS

The job entails the performance of a complete range of grinding/turning, drilling, tapping, boring, burnishing, reaming operations on all computer numerical controlled or manual machines. Make all types of set-ups including fixture alignment and settings of tools and stops. Work from part drawings, operation sheets, program sheets. Check for tape errors and worn or defective tools. Manually operate machine independently of tape by dialing in proper information on control panel when required. Inspect own work and use all types of inspection equipment available. Run more than one machine at a time when conditions permit. Set-up machines train and provide guidance for new CNC operators.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 3 year Mechanical Technology/ BS Industrial Technology/ BS Industrial Engineering major in Machine Shop or equivalent as follows:
- At least 3 years in Engineering with general machine shop vocational course.
- High School with general machine shop vocational course and 2 ½ years machine shop work experience.
- With minimum 1 ½ years machine shop experience
- Blueprint reading, use of precision gages like height masters and gages, gage blocks, air gages, etc.

ASSEMBLY TECHNICIAN

The job assembles, according to strict quality and engineering specifications, electro hydraulic and pneumatic servo control components and products. A variety of hand tools fixtures, mechanical measuring devices, electronic test instruments, and hydraulic equipment is used; working from engineering drawings and instructions.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Educational background in instrumentation, electronics, electrical, or mechanical fields, either as:
- a graduate of a 3-year technological course; or
- a graduate of a 2-year trade course with at least 1 year related work experience; or
- a graduate of a 6-month vocational course with at least 2½ years related work experience; or
- Having completed at least 3 years engineering with at least 1 year related work experience; or having completed 4 to 5 years engineering.

Moog has a work ethic that demands a great deal from each employee's sense of responsibility, self-discipline, dedication, team work, and expertise. We also offer job security along with a competitive package and a conducive working environment.

All interested applicants will please send or email their full resumé complete with ID picture, telephone number, transcript of records, salary history, and return address (including telephone number), on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 to:

MOOG CONTROLS CORPORATION
Baguio Economic Zone
Loakan Road, Baguio City 2600
Email address: staffingservices@ph.moog.com

A construction and design firm is in need of the following:

Structural Detailer / Design Engineer – male with at least 5-7 years experience. Not more than 30 yrs. old. Licensed Engineer. (Urgent requirement)

Project Engineer – Male with at least 5 years experience. Not more than 30 yrs. old. Licensed Engineer.

Equipment Supervisor – Male with at least 10 years experience in handling heavy equipments such as backhoe, cranes, etc. Mechanic in profession is an advantage.

Site Administrative Officer – Male with at least 3 years experience in the related field. Business administration / Psychology graduate, proficient in Microsoft.

Steel Erectors / Welders – Male with at least 10 years experience in the related field. Classified as 4G-6G welder is an advantage.

Operator / Mechanic – Operator of Grader / Backhoe / Crane (Hydraulic and Mechanical). Not more than 40 yrs. old. Mechanic in profession is an advantage.

Interested applicants may send their resumé at 3rd Flr. Fortuna 2 Bldg., Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City. Tel. No. 826-9479; Email: iqconsult@pacific.net.ph. Look for Ms. Tina.

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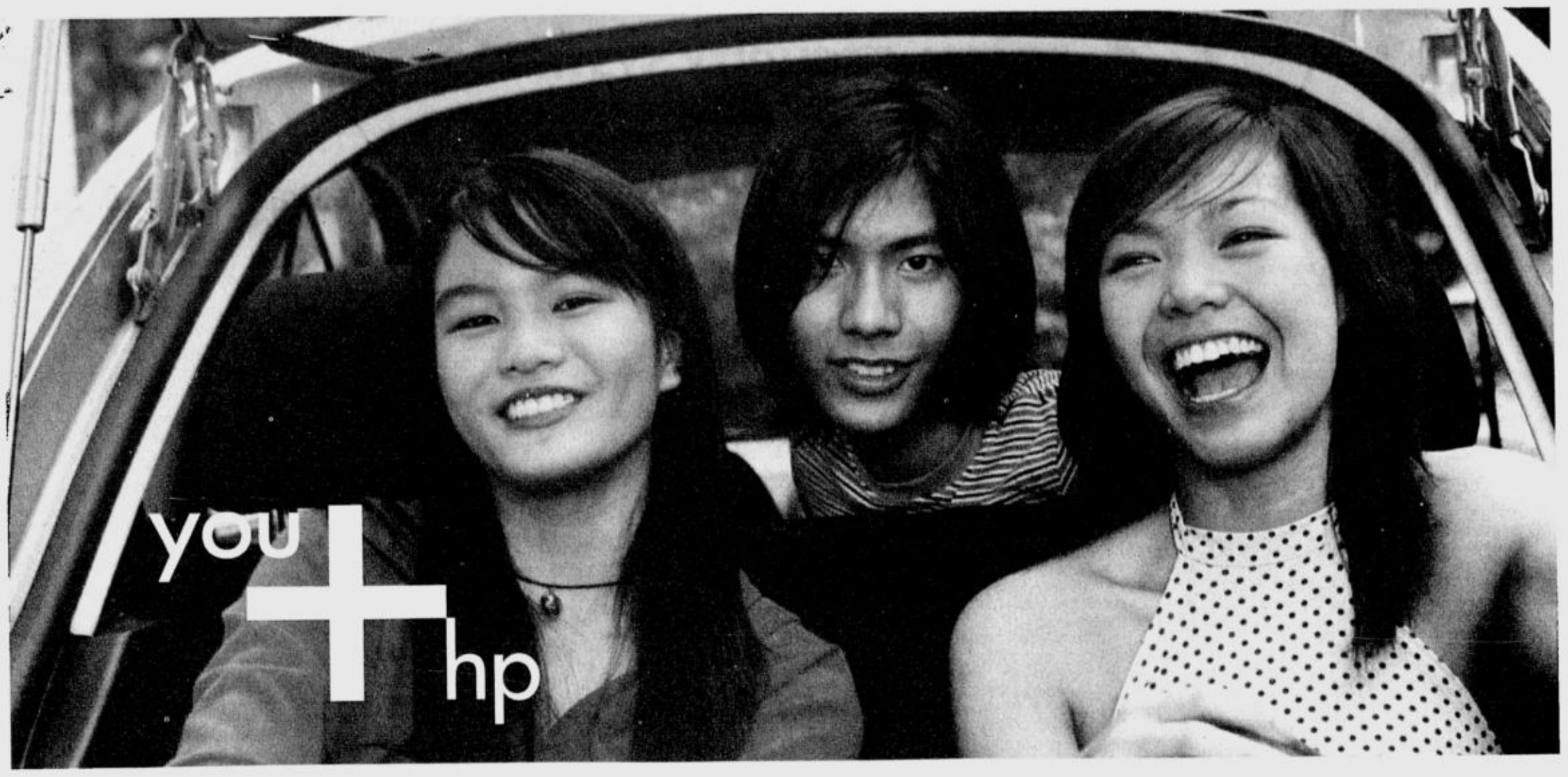

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We are currently recruiting for certified applicants in SAP, Oracle, Java, Unix, ITIL, PMI and Siebel.

Account Services Manager

Ref: 878429
Location: Makati City, Philippines

As the key builder of customer relationships, you will work with the sales team to create new business and develop, present and structure solutions with potential outsourcing clients. You will direct and manage the analysis, design, proposal, implementation and ongoing delivery for an assigned account, ensuring its profitability, revenue performance, and customer satisfaction/loyalty.

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in Computer Science, Electrical/Computer Engineering or equivalent.
- At least 6 years of experience in managing complex IT projects.
- Broad technology knowledge (UNIX, NT, Networking, Open Systems, Internet, Data Warehousing)
- Demonstrable business, customer and project management skills.
- Excellent leadership, analytical, communication and presentation skills.
- Possess a driver's license, and willing to travel.

SAP Project Manager

Ref: 881941
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will help customers to define and implement complex integrated solutions that optimize their technology to support and grow their business. Working hand in hand with our sales force and other specialists, you will assess current and future technical and business needs to build and present demonstrably best value solutions and partnering services. Having made the convincing case, you will then have overall authority for the costing, scheduling, planning and tracking, terms and conditions, and risk management of the project through its entire life cycle.

- At least 5 years of experience in SAP projects.
- PMI certification is a plus.
- Exposure and knowledge of SAP project management methodology, including commercial, technical and legal issues.
- Domain expertise in a particular business area is ideal.
- Excellent leadership, communication, negotiation and influencing skills.

SAP Basis Support Specialist

Ref: 872649
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for the overall installation, configuration and administration of large scale global and regional SAP systems. You will plan, execute and follow up on SAP projects under your charge, and provide proactive support, through effective capacity planning and change management. You will also provide reactive support for customers, and introduce measures to reduce reactive work.

- Background in Computer Science or equivalent.
- At least 3 years of hands-on experience in SAP Basis administration on Oracle/HP Unix platform.
- An independent worker with good analytical thinking and strong troubleshooting skills.
- Good customer handling, communication and documentation skills.
- Fluency in English.

SAP Product Specialist

Ref: 873146
Location: Makati City, Philippines

As part of the HP Application Services' global network of SAP experts, serving both global and regional accounts for HP, you will work with customers to prototype current business processes to SAP solutions, and design and develop new solutions to address any gaps between business requirements and the solution set. You will also conduct system testing and business acceptance testing to ensure design specifications.

- At least 2 years of SAP R3/APO implementation, development or support experience in Materials Management, Production Planning, Sales and Distribution, Financials, APO, SRM, ABAP, or CRM.
- SAP, ITIL or PMI certification is a definite advantage.
- Systems implementation experience across project life cycle preferred.
- Excellent leadership and communication skills.

SAP BW Support Specialist

Ref: 871911
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be accountable for the overall Level II end-to-end 24x7 Service Delivery for Global SAP BW Systems, and will provide support for the European/American business, which is part of a Global Delivery team. Your responsibilities include ongoing Incident, Problem and Change Management for a defined set of Supply Chain SAP BW applications supporting one of HP's global customers.

- Experience in SAP Supply Chain applications, ideally in the SAP R/3, BW or SAP Planning operations.
- Knowledge of service management processes (Incident, Problem, Change and Service Level Management).
- Strong customer-service orientation, and problem solving skills for technical and process related issues.
- Excellent leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Willing to travel.

AFR Support Specialist/Project Resource

Ref: 877805
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be assigned to provide first level support for the AFRS team, and will work directly with the customers to address issues and requests based on business need and within agreed Service Levels. You will also monitor supported systems and critical transactions to ensure integrity of systems at all times, as well as ensure that User Master Records are properly configured. For the Project Resource position, you will be involved in SAP FI/CO implementations/development.

- Bachelor's degree in IT/Engineering or equivalent.
- At least 1 year of experience in SAP or ABAP Debugging and Programming.
- Strong accounting and financial background.
- A team player with good communication skills and customer attitude.

ITO Support Specialist (Network)

Ref: 867730
Location: Makati Philippines

Working on problems/projects of moderately complex scope, you will exercise independent judgment within defined practices and procedures to determine appropriate action. Responsibilities include providing first level support for data network infrastructure, voice network infrastructure, Windows servers, and deskside support for internal and outsourcing customers. You will also provide account delivery management for outsourcing customers, and presales support to the Managed Services business development team.

- Degree in Computing or equivalent.
- Presales experience is advantageous.
- Basic project management, communication and analytical skills required.
- Comprehensive business, technical or functional knowledge, and excellent knowledge of the IT environment and its future trends.
- Strong technical skills, flexibility and resourcefulness.

Pre-Sales Solution Architect

Ref: 858576
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for creating buying preference for server and storage products with technical influencers, decision makers and partners. You will assume a technical leadership role with aligned Sales Specialists for all server solution opportunities in both Named Accounts and SMB customer space, and will serve as the interface to HP's Competitive Sales and Presales organization to engage appropriate resources throughout the sales cycle.

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Engineering or equivalent.
- At least 3 years of technical experience with in-depth understanding of HP-UX systems, servers and technical solutions.
- Software development knowledge is advantageous.
- A team player with strong sales and negotiation skills, as well as excellent presentation and communication skills.

SAP Enterprise Application Integration Solutions Engineer

Ref: 871145
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be part of a team responsible to deliver Integration Solutions to customers using the SAP Netweaver stack (i.e. ALE/RFC, Workflow, WebServices, SAP Exchange, JCO). You will be involved in the architecture, engineering, definition of standards and processes, training, consultancy and expert support for certain technologies to provide quality service to customers that fits into HP's and the customers' overall architecture and strategy.

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or equivalent.
- At least 2 years of SAP experience, preferably in application design with focus on interface development and SAP Basis.
- Strong analytical and technical engineering skills, and solid understanding of business processes and applications.
- Customer focused with strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.

Account Support Engineer

Ref: 874881
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for providing in-depth technical and technological expertise in your particular areas of focus. Initially, you will provide services to a limited number of small accounts to which you are personally assigned. Support becomes more and more specific as you move through the experience levels, right up to the highly complex design, scoping and implementation leadership of international and strategic accounts, working at highest level with customers and managing large projects.

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in a technical/scientific discipline.
- Product-oriented certificate (e.g. MCSE) preferred.
- Broad technology knowledge (UNIX, NT) and knowledge management skills, such as creation and re-use of intellectual capital.
- A team player with excellent communication skills and analytical problem-solving skills.

Desktop Software Management Web and Database Developer

Ref: 878571
Location: Makati City, Philippines

You will be responsible for the design, development and maintenance of portals, workflow solutions, tools, utilities, and databases related to the software integration and deployment service of HP Managed Services for a key global account. You will also be involved in application solution refresh and development to support commercialization and business process reengineering.

- Technical experience, skills and knowledge in Web design and development (html, java, and ASP.NET), database design and development (SQL and Access), development on Lotus Notes, and other programming languages.
- Background in working with regional/global teams is an advantage.
- Strong problem solving, communication and interpersonal skills.

To apply to the jobs listed above, please submit your information in our streamlined online application form in the "how to apply" section of

www.hp.com/go/jobs

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Republic of the Philippines

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LIST OF WINNERS FOR THE DELINQUENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - 2nd Raffle Draw - April 18, 2005

The following will be notified by mail as regards their prizes:

SEQ #	SS NUMBER	MEMBER'S NAME	ADDRESS
1	03-2230167-2	YOLANDA M. OVILLA	ROSAFLOR SUBD., TAGAPO, STA ROSA, LAGUNA 4026
2	33-0566194-7	TERENCE C. FEREDAY JR.	90 T. EVANGELISTA ST., PH2 BF HOMES, PARANAQUE CITY 1700
3	03-3039128-5	SALVADOR B. CAS	2721 DIEGO LINAN EXT., DAET, CAMARINES NORTE
4	03-5584247-6	DAVID I. DE GUZMAN	30 EMERALD RD., PINES CITY ROYAL, SAN ROQUE, ANTIPOLO CITY 1870
5	03-9663706-4	SAMSON NOEL O. BARRIOGA	52-F BURGOS ST., LAPAZ, ILOILO CITY 5000
6	06-1172946-6	ELMER R. FLORES	SAN MIGUEL, FORTALIZA, TUBURAN, CEBU 6043
7	03-6373830-7	QUINTIN A. TOLENTINO JR.	52 SAN PEDRO 8 COMPOUND, BRGY. PASONG TAMO, QUEZON CITY 1107
8	03-3584739-4	GLORIA V. SAGUN	513 AMANG RODRIGUEZ AVE., MANGGAHAN, PASIG CITY1600
9	03-9663706-4	SAMSON NOEL O. BARRIOGA	52-F BURGOS ST., LAPAZ, ILOILO CITY 5000
10	09-0650980-9	LILIA G. ACOSTA	KATIKU, PRESIDENT QUIRINO, SULTAN KUDARAT 9804
11	03-1997432-2	SALVADOR L. LERIO	1151 JORENZ AVE., TANADA SUBD., GEN. T. DE LEON, VALENZUELA CITY 1442
12	03-8536714-1	ANGELITO S. PANTONI	644 NENETTE ST., 179 GAGALANGIN, TONDO, MANILA 1103
13	07-0650412-7	LINO ELLY A. PALAGTIOSA	SCMCI COMPOUND, BRGY. I SAN CARLOS CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL 6127
14	03-2566736-4	JIMMY GALLARDO	BLK 7 LOT 11 NATIVIDAD SUBD. I, DEPARO, NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY 1420
15	03-8002632-2	ARNOLD R. CANONOY	109 ODIGOL ST., COMMONWEALTH, QUEZON CITY 1121
16	06-0869808-9	NILO O. CABUDBUD	P. BURGOS ST., BAGONGBAYAN, BATO, LEYTE 6525
17	03-5304433-1	GREGORIO V. BABISTA	3 G. DEL PILAR ST., LUCBAN, QUEZON 4328
18	02-0575025-2	ARNOLITO C. APOSTOL	146 M.S. EVANGELISTA, SAN NICOLAS, SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES 2206
19	03-7913536-3	NILO M. PEREZ	675 M 9 DE PEBRERO, PLEASANT HILLS, MANDALUYONG CITY 1553
20	03-6950933-6	LUZVIMINDA A. VILLASANA	314 G. DE BORJA ST., AGUHO, PATEROS, RIZAL 1620
21	08-0397786-4	ADORA B. VELEZ	241 FISLA VILLAGE, ZONE 7, ILAYA CARMEN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY 9000
22	04-0225306-0	TEODORO L. ALIPIT	3 BANAY-BANAY, CABUYAO, LAGUNA 4025
23	07-1213610-7	MELROSE M. ACALING	1380 F. QUIMPO ST., KALIBO, AKLAN 5600
24	08-0714443-1	NEMESIO M. POROL	PALITON, SAN JUAN, SIQUIJOR, NEGROS ORIENTAL 6227
25	33-1832513-1	RAUL O. BUENDIA	84 ROSE ALLEY, PUROK 2, GIBRALTAR, BAGUIO CITY 2600
26	03-2924460-2	FLORO C. CABATOS	15 ROAD I, DIAM ST., GALGERA CMPD., GEN. T.DE LEON VALENZUELA 1441
27	33-0961116-8	RONNIE A. GONZALEZ	P2 BLK2 L8 F. DE CASTRO, SUNSHINE HOMES, GMA, CAVITE 4117
28	06-1261767-4	JOEL A. CONOL	B3 L16 NHA PHASE 3, CASISANG, MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON 8709
29	33-0973969-7	GREGORIO S. MARIANO	271 GUZMAN ST., STA CRUZ, ANGAT, BULACAN 3012
30	09-0788304-5	RODOLFO C. ODAL	151 ISRAEL ST., DUMANLAS, BUHANGIN, DAVAO CITY 8000
31	02-0105593-5	CARLITO P. BELMONTE	CASABAAN SUR, SUMABNIT
32	33-2188615-9	JOAN D. TOLOSA	4710 OLD STA MESA ST., STA MESA, MANILA 1000
33	33-4446035-8	DEMETRIO Q. CORTEZ JR	3254-E F. ROXAS ST., MANDALUYONG 1550
34	03-7486118-2	CESAR R. ALEGADO	BLK 21 LOT 16 ST. IGNATIUS ST., LAMAR VILLAGE, SAN MATEO, RIZAL 1850
35	33-1596345-3	FRANKIE I. NUVAL	163-36 MOORE ST., SFDM, QUEZON CITY 1105
36	03-5308933-8	WENDELYN B. TELINS	MAASIM, SAN ILDEFONSO, BULACAN 3010
37	03-2471025-4	JORGE C. DOMINADO	46 VALIANT ST., FAIRVIEW PARK SUBD., QUEZON CITY 1118
38	10-0130788-2	BENJAMIN ARCILLAS	DIVISORIA, ZAMBOANGA CITY 7000
39	06-1119505-8	EVELYN G. RUIZ	TING GUAN APT., H. CORTES ST., BANILAD, MANDAUE CITY 6014
40	33-0837106-9	ORLANDO V. VERDE	1ST MATTHEW, DON BOSCO, BETTER LIVING, PARANAQUE CITY
41	08-0344028-1	BIENVENIDO D. PANAGUITON	DAPAN SUBD., SALWING, MAKILALA, COTABATO 9401
42	03-3471787-8	PANFILO L. BARTOLOME	129 DE GUZMAN CMPD., PASO DE BLAS, VALENZUELA CITY
43	02-0930373-1	ANTONIO A. PASCUA	120D-C BENITEZ ST., CUBAO, QUEZON CITY 1109
44	09-1306728-2	LUDWIG VAN A. LEDESMA	36 CALLE CAMIA ST., EL RIO VISTA, BACAC, DAVAO CITY 8000
45	05-0147483-4	MARIA ELENA L. ESTADILLA	3 RAMAIDA VILLAGE, CONCEPCION GRANDE, NAGA CITY 4400
46	03-2133760-1	ALFREDO A. SANA	216 RIZAL ST., POB. SUR, MAYANTOC, TARLAC
47	03-4026289-2	MACARIA A. GONDA	31 GREEN ST., MUNTING BAHAYAN, PINAGBUHATAN, PASIG CITY 1602
48	33-0524901-3	ELENA C. MAXIMO	437 NIUGAN, ANGAT, BULACAN 3012
49	03-6491587-3	ROMULO C. MAGPILI	1447 TOMAS MAPUA ST., STA CRUZ, MANILA 1014
50	05-0506934-8	CORAZON P. RARA	BLK 59 LOT 21 BAHAY PANGARAP, SAMPALOC IV, DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE 4114
51	03-6909026-5	DANIEL O. PETES	PUROK 6, PAULOG, LIGAO, ALBAY 4504
52	04-0527053-2	MARLENE M. TOMARONG	0570 LOBARBIO ST., BILIBIRAN, BINANGONAN, RIZAL 1940
53	33-3014445-5	JOEL A. VELASCO	BLK 4 LOT 1, PH-1B, SAN LORENZO SOUTH, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA 4026
54	03-4610053-8	RAYMUNDO A. MARTIN JR.	304 STO. ROSARIO ST., BRGY. 96, ZONE 8, TONDO, MANILA 1013
55	01-0256193-5	ALEJANDRO O. OBEJAS	NAGSARABOAN NORTE, BALAOAN, LA UNION
56	07-1469572-7	ROY E. PABLICO	46 BLUEJAY ST., OLYMPIA VILLAGE, ALIJIS, BACOLOD CITY 6100
57	03-2704222-0	REYNALDO E. ELICO	B4 BUKID MALINTA, VALENZUELA CITY 1440
58	03-9436985-5	MARIO C. ALDE	POBLACION DISTRICT III, DAUIN, NEGROS ORIENTAL
59	03-2563066-3	AMADO S. MALAPO	SANTICON, POLANGUI, ALBAY 4506
60	03-9001955-2	JENNY C. FERRER	B2 L8 LOVE AVE., SANTOS HOME, PULANLUPA, LAS PINAS 1742
61	02-0218239-9	EDGARDO A. RAMOS	141 DEL PAN ST., ATLAG, MALOLOS, BULACAN
62	03-4719936-6	ROMMEL C. GALLARDO	B5 L15 LAZARO COMPOUND 3, BRGY. 3, CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA 4027
63	02-0961431-0	ANITA S. ABIT	2800 RIZAL AVE., EBB, OLONGAPO, ZAMBALES 2200
64	03-1104455-1	RODOLFO N. DELA CRUZ	17 JONES ST., NEW ASINAN, OLONGAPO CITY 2200
65	03-3643646-1	CHARITO H. PEPINO	55 NORTH CIRCLE ST., COUNTRY HOMES, STO. DOMINGO, CAINTA, RIZAL 1900
66	33-4549539-3	ADONIS R. ZAPATA	PH4 B10 L110, GOLDEN CITY SUBD., DILA, STA ROSA, LAGUNA 4026
67	02-0065962-0	CORNELIO M. PALABINO	57 PANFILO LOPEZ ST., WEST LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN
68	08-0265684-1	EPIFANIO M. MAGHANOY JR.	45 BLISS SITE, ZONE 9, MACANHAN CARMEN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY 9000
69	03-3104701-7	ZENAIDA R. INDIANA	165 MONDAY ST., POBLACION, MANDALUYONG CITY 1550
70	03-5436016-2	JAIME M. TAPAO	940 P QUIETA ST., BAGONG SILANG, MANDALUYONG CITY
71	33-1506959-7	EVANGELINE D. ATUTUBO	36 MAPANG-AKIT ST., PINYAHAN IV, QUEZON CITY 1101
72	33-1959413-6	DANILO L. MOGPO	10 RD 18 BRGY. BAHAY TORO, QUEZON CITY
73	05-0169851-3	EDUARDO D. DEE	75 RIVERDALE ST., MONTEREY VILLAGE, NAGA CITY 4400
74	01-0902539-7	ROGELIO P. LIYO	SUGUIDAN NORTE, NAGUILIAN, LA UNION 2511
75	03-5652280-5	MA CORAZON V. MARTIN	45 MARTIGAN PH3, BF HOMES, PARANAQUE CITY
76	33-1706417-6	MARS L. TERAZA	STO.NINO EXT., BRGY. 6A, TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE 6500
77	02-0377303-7	JOVITA G. DE SILVA	40 LAON ST., ABUCAY, BATAAN 2114
78	33-4874144-2	JENNIFER A. RICACHO	85 M. ROXAS ST., ANIBAN 1, BACOOR, CAVITE 4102
79	09-1148906-6	JAMES O. GULTIANO	LOT 21 BLK 11 PHASE 1 ROSEVILLE SUBD., LANANG, DAVAO CITY 8000
80	07-0210091-0	FORTUNATO C. TEJADA JR.	CAINGIN, LA PAZ, ILOILO CITY
81	08-0391751-0	FELIX N. PACULBA	PUROK 14, ZONE 5, FUENTES, ILIGAN CITY, LANAO DEL NORTE 9200
82	03-3430070-6	JIMMY M. ATIENZA	GAONGAN SIPOCOT, CAMARINES SUR
83	07-1345973-1	NINFA L. CONSING	2007 M. REYES COR. MALVAR ST., BANGKAL, MAKATI CITY
84	03-3177552-5	ABELARDO S. PARABOT	417 TANZANG LUMA, IMUS, CAVITE 4103
85	03-3046092-5	BRENDA B. BALOALOA	18 BEVERLY HILLS AVE., BEVERLY HILLS SUBD., ANTIPOLO CITY 1870
86	33-1067964-9	JOSEPH S. SAN DIEGO	124 P PASCUAL ST., BRGY. SAN JOSE, MORONG, RIZAL 1960
87	03-4899259-5	VENANCIO A. DE GUZMAN JR.	129-A J. P. RIZAL ST., SAN ROQUE, MARIKINA CITY 1801
88	06-0958576-4	WELFREDO C. JOMUAD,	B28 L7 CANDUMAN HOUSING, MANDAUE CITY, CEBU 6014
89	03-6597623-5	MARLINA B. MALLARI	163 ALIPANGPANG, POZORUBIO, PANGASINAN 2435
90	09-0869494-5	WILLY S. LIEVA	BLK 12 LOT 6 PH1 ROSEVILLE SUBD., LANANG, DAVAO CITY 8000
91	06-0673594-4	TOMAS G. LAURITO	ABSA DHS, TOLEDO CITY, CEBU
92	33-1999843-1	JAIME O. COLLADO JR.	595-B VISCARA ST., MALIBAY, PASAY CITY 1300
93	03-6402114-9	SHIRLEY M. MIRABEL	318 SIMONA SUBD., TAYTAY, RIZAL 1920
94	03-1663494-0	MANUEL T. LEOCADIO	2313 K GEN.-24CBAN ST., 148, TONDO, MANILA
95	03-4702559-9	ROLANDO G. NUNEZ	BULUJUKAN, SAN ILDEFONSO, BULACAN 3010
96	02-1200439-9	MERVIN C. MARINO	25 GORDON ST., NEW BANICAIN, OLONGAPO CITY 2200
97	06-1036876-3	FELOMINA G. MINOZA	GOTOCAN DACU, OZAMIZ CITY 7200
98	33-2760515-6	LINDON G. GENETA	DPCH BLK 13 LOT 30, SAN MIGUEL, TARLAC 2301
99	05-0152521-7	LITO L. VIDOR	PUKO ARAROY, MASBATE 5414
100	06-0412800-3	MARINO I. DURAN	007 F. JACA ST., TUGAS, INAYAWAN, CEBU CITY 6000

For further inquiries, please call the Loans Collection Program Management Department,
Tel. No. 920-6401 locals 5768 to 5771 or Member Loans Program Management Department locals 5131 to 5135.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Dental Anesthetics, Disposable Dental Needles, Dental Forceps, Sodium Fluoride, and Auditory Penlights

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

PACKAGE	ITEM	BUDGET
1	Supply & Delivery of Dental Anesthetics	P 2,420,000.00
2	Supply & Delivery of Disposable Needles	P 385,000.00
3	Supply & Delivery of Dental Forceps	P 620,000.00
4	Supply & Delivery of Sodium Fluoride	P 450,000.00
5	Supply & Delivery of Auditory Penlights	P 400,000.00

The total Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is **PHILIPPINE PESOS FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND & 00/100 ONLY (PhP 4,275,000.00)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.

2. The DepED, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of GOODS to the DepED HNC, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on **May 2, 2005** until **May 10, 2005** upon submission of a letter of intent to the BAC Secretariat Office, 5th floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Philippine Pesos One Thousand & 00/100 only (Php 1,000.00)**.
5. The **DepED, BAC** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **May 11, 2005**, 10:00 a.m. at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.**
6. Bids must be received on or before **May 24, 2005**, 10:00 a.m. at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City**. Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The **DepED, BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 30 & May 7, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations & Maintenance, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply of Labor & Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape, of TransCo Offices, Installations & Assets (Packages I, II & III)
Contract Code : Trans-05-JAN-EBD-01
Location : South Luzon Areas
Brief Description : Furnishing of all labor and supervision for jobs Related to Janitorial services
Approved Budget For the Contract : Php 13,118,044.80 (Package I); Php 13,543,814.16 (Package II); Php 10,476,085.92 (Package III)
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Delivery Period : Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete and tentative schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts May 3, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 30, 2005, 1:30 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	June 14, 2005, 8:30 A.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	To be announced on a later date
5. Post-qualification	To be announced on a later date
6. Notice of Award	To be announced on a later date

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the National Transmission Corporation-SLOM Cashier.

The National Transmission Corporation-SLOM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. VERGARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 30, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of US Long Grains Hard Milled White (4% brokens) under 2004 USPL-480 Title I Program as follows:

Commodity	Volume	Indicative Price	Location
Non-fortified and Iron-fortified Rice	57,010 MT more or less	P1,100.00/bag	NFA-NCR and Region III Warehouses

The pre-auction conference and auction proper shall be held at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Board Room, 10th Flr., Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodrigue Sr. Ave., Q.C. on the following dates or until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
May 9, 2005	May 12, 2005
May 17, 2005	May 19, 2005

To qualify, all interested bidders are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/ or milling).
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting May 9, 2005 at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Esple Tecson at tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

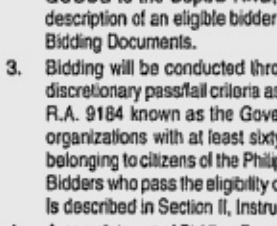
Bid documents will be available on May 9, 2005 and May 17, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

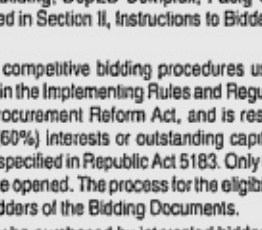
(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI - April 30 & May 2, 2005)

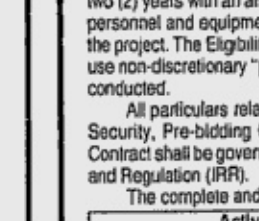
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



ALEX O. DIMALANTA II



CORNELIA ROWENA C. ANGELES



CONSTANTINE M. NAVARRO

Notice is hereby given to the public that the persons appearing above have outstanding warrants of arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City, Branch 266, in connection with the prosecution of Criminal Case. No. 126735 to 37 entitled ***"People of the Philippines vs. Alex O. Dimalanta II, Cornelia Rowena C. Angeles and Constantine M. Navarro"***. Any information regarding the whereabouts leading to the arrest of the above-named persons will be rewarded.

Any information relating to the foregoing may be communicated to:

ATTYS. CHRISTIAN ROBERT S. LIM AND
ROSS JOSEPH J. ROMANILLOS
LIM and OCAMPO LAW OFFICES
4th Floor, ACT Tower
135 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 840-2787, 840-2814 & 8402825

(PDI – April 23, 24, 30 & May 1, 2005)

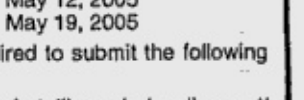
DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture and appliances; office furniture and equipment; computers; scrap/junk supplies; and Chevy, S-10, Pick up on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected May 9-10, 2005, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the USAID Warehouse: 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City (Warehouse is located between EDSA and Airport road with a big gray gate beside PITC.). Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refund will be done starting May 12, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/ Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 851-4229, 851-4234/35 and 514-4236.

(PDI-April 30, May 1, 7 & 8, 2005)



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ASIA CONSULTING, INC.

Career Breakthrough Opportunities

Our client - a highly dynamic and growing organization with a value-based culture, regional / global operation, multi-cultural customer base, and empowered workforce – has urgent need for highly motivated people for its Retail Operations business group supporting our Asia Pacific region, specifically Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Philippines, and South Africa.

I. Desktop & Applications Support Analyst (DASA)

Responsibilities:
- Manage the organization's standard PC image or operating environment throughout the Retail Operations in the Asia Pacific region
- Define policies, standards, and best practices of the PC image
- Develop updated installation packages for applications included in the standard operating environment
- Document configuration and installation instructions of the applications
- Communicate and schedule PC image upgrades
- Organize and participate in testing the PC image to ensure that it is stable, functional, and can support the applications
- Provide support in resolving PC image issues
- Perform Application Administrator tasks such as adding new users and changing system configuration

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology (or its equivalent)
- Extensive experience and knowledge of Windows XP Professional and Office XP / 2003
- Five years experience in planning, designing, implementing, and supporting distributed computing infrastructure (e.g. desktop systems, server systems, application deployment and support)
- Substantial experience in creating and maintaining process documentation

II. Application Support Analyst (ASA)

Responsibilities:
- Provide assistance in resolving system problems relating to all of the Asia Pacific internal technical business support systems, interfaces, and processes (e.g. Back Office, Head Office, and Point of Sales systems)
- Train users on the usage of business support systems
- Perform Application Administration tasks for business support systems
- Ensure that corporate internal controls are being implemented
- Establish documentation and maintenance of policies on internal controls
- Assist in the evaluation and documentation of system administration and operational processes
- Build and maintain expertise in new hardware, software, and systems as these are deployed to the customers

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology (or its equivalent)
- Two to five years experience in business applications support
- One to three years experience in Retail Systems is preferred
- Familiarity with networking technologies
- Experience in database management (Oracle and Microsoft SQL) and documentation will have an advantage

III. Retail Operation Center (ROC) Hotline Team Leader

Responsibilities:
- Provide assistance in the team's task planning and administration
- Document and maintain Hotline procedures, contacts, and references
- Monitor, highlight, and record frequently asked queries
- Log calls and perform first level problem analysis and resolution
- Monitor the status of problems and closely partner with other support groups regarding the problem's status.
- Generates reports regarding Hotline services

Requirements:
- Bachelor Degree
- Solid experience with user/customer support
- Experience in leading and developing a team
- Experience in Microsoft Office applications and other PC-based systems

IV. Retail Operation Center (ROC) Hotline Assistant

Responsibilities:
- Log calls and perform problem analysis and resolution of system queries
- Monitor the status of problems and closely partner with other support groups regarding the problem status until its resolution
- Generates reports regarding the Hotline services

Requirements:
- Bachelor Degree
- Solid experience with user/customer support
- Experience in Microsoft Office applications and other PC-based systems

V. Test and Integration Team Leader (T&ITL)

Responsibilities:
- Manage the Test and Integration Laboratory by planning and prioritizing system tests
- Maintain the integrity of the testing process and ensure that the tested hardware and software items are properly integrated with other systems
- Establish metrics to measure customer satisfaction with the services of the Test and Integration Laboratory
- Build the capability of the laboratory to increase the scope of production systems that can be tested and supported
- Maintain and publish an overall test schedule

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Science, or Engineering
- Minimum of five years experience in software testing methodologies and procedures
- Minimum of two years experience in Quality Assurance work including the creation and execution of Test Plans of systems
- Minimum of two years experience in managing a team
- Experience in Retail Systems, particularly C-stores, is preferred
- Experience in documentation of Test Reports

VI. Test and Integration Specialists (T&IS)

Responsibilities:
- Develop, document, and execute test plans for new and existing Marketing System components
- Assist in piloting of tested systems by documenting processes and conducting training and orientation sessions
- Analyze issues that arise during pilot stage and assist in its resolutions
- Maintain an updated and comprehensive Test Catalogue
- Prepare and publish test results

Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology, Science, or Engineering
- Experience in testing methodologies and procedures
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office applications
- Experience in documentation and training
- Experience in Retail Systems is preferred

The ideal candidates should be fluent in spoken and written English, proactive, results-oriented, and customer-focused. They must be team players, enjoy working with people of diverse cultural backgrounds, and willing to travel on an as-needed basis.

Challenging career opportunities and attractive compensation package await the successful candidates. Interested qualified applicants may send their resumés to KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc. c/o Mr. Ildefonso Chan at the 22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or email to ichan@ksearchasia.com; fax at 893-6259.

Applications received before May 8, 2005 will have an advantage.

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QUALIFICATION:
- College Level (at least 2nd Year)
- Computer Literate
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- With Pleasing Personality
- Hard Working

BRING RESUMÉ OR EMAIL TO THE FOLLOWING VENUES / AGENCIES:

CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT RESOURCES INC.
G/F Archway Bldg 53 Dagupan cor San Joaquin St.SFDM Quezon City
cmr_phil@yahoo.com
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Tondo, Sampaloc, Sta Mesa, Malate, Paco, Binondo, Quiapo)

POINTMAN PLACEMENT SPECIALIST, INC
Rm. 404 Aurelio Bldg, 9th Ave Cor Rizal Ave Ext Caloocan City
pointmanppsi@yahoo.com / pointmanppsi@pacific.net.ph
Contact Person Ana Balabag/ Mary Jane Denoga
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Luzon City, Cubao, Balara, Commonwealth, Novaliches, Kaloocan, Gracepark, Malabon, Valenzuela)

AE RESEARCH
Rm. 400J Delta Bldg West Ave Quezon City
aerei@pacific.net.ph
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Ortigas, Mandaluyong,Pasig, Cainta, Marikina, Taytay, Antipolo, Tanay, Angono, Binangonan)

CENTENNIAL TECHNOLOGIES & MARKETING CORP.
G/F PNCC Compound EDSA corner Reliance St., Mandaluyong MM
centech@info.com.ph / centech_recruit@yahoo.com
(AREA FOR ASSIGNMENT: Makati Pasay, Paranaque, Alabang, Las Piñas)

BRING THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:
- Resume with two (2) 2x2 ID pictures, Original (for reference) and two photocopies of Transcript of Record and/or Certification of Graduation (Diploma)
- Original and two (2) photocopies of any of the following: NBI / Police / Barangay Clearance; Birth Certificate and SSS E-1 form/card.

APPLICATIONS INCLUDING THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 07, TWO (2) DAYS BEFORE THE TRAINING DATE SCHEDULED ON MAY 09, 2005

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22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
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IT Site Support Engineer
Systems Developer
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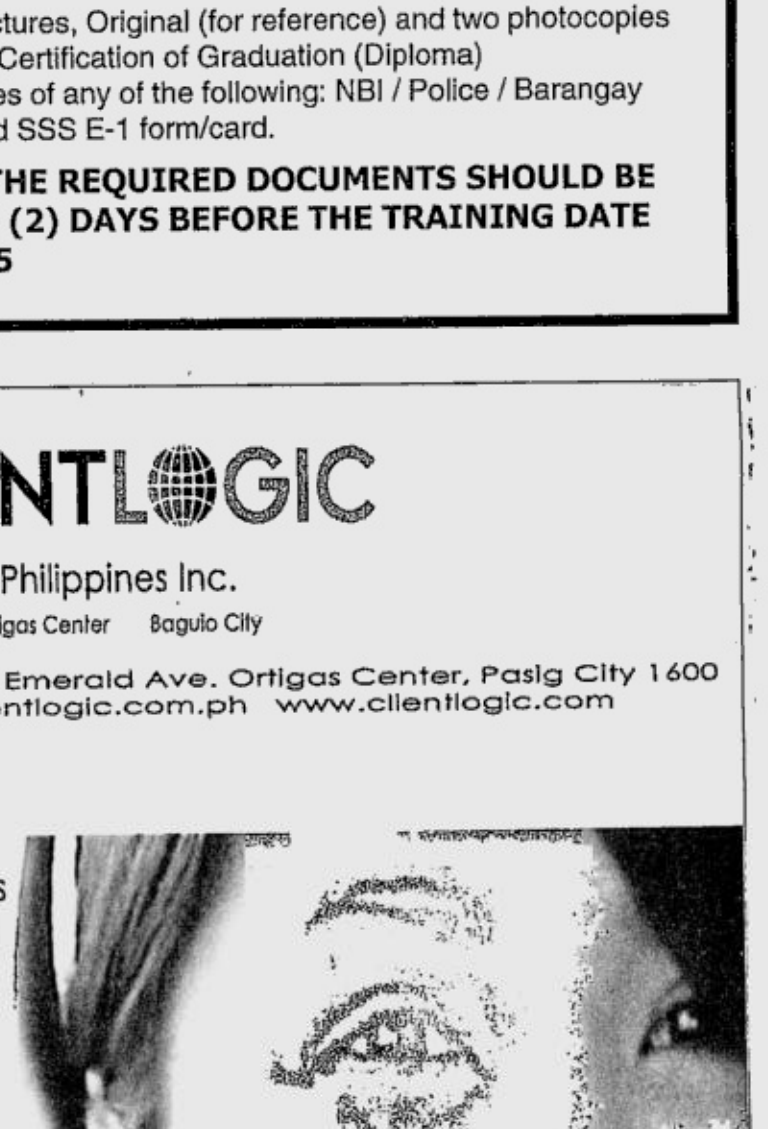
(Spanish,French, Italian, German,Portuguese)

FOR BAGUIO:
Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives

Bring your resume with
° 2x2 picture
° SSS & TIN nos.

E-mail Applications:
° Indicate the position your applying for as the subject



PASIG: Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) May 2 - 6 ° 22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO: Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) May 2 - 6 ° Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd., Baguio City

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Canon

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Japanese-speaking Telephone Operator / Receptionist

- Female, with pleasant voice
- Good communication skills
- Must have basic knowledge of spoken Japanese

Administrative Assistants

- Generates reports on project activities
- Assists project engineers with administrative and coordination tasks
- College graduate
- Computer literate

Please send a copy of your resume/bio-data with passport-size photo to:

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resource Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One,
18 Orchard Road, Eastwood, Q.C. 1110
Tel: (632) 421-1234 / 0917-8582709
Fax: (632) 421-1050
E-mail: recruitment@citech.com.ph

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

OBITUARIES

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104 years

JOSE "Pepe" ONRUBIA QUEROL

of LIGAO CITY

*Peacefully joined his wife **ADELINA** and his **SAVIOR** on April 27, 2005 at the age of 78.*

His bereaved children **BEATRIZ** and ROBERTO ABAIGAR (†), **TERESITA** and SALVADOR SUNE, **EPITACIO, M.D.** and MA. BELLA DEL ROSARIO, M.D., **JOSE, M.D.** and ARMEE CALAYAN, M.D., **ROBERTO** and HELEN REANTASO, **JULITA, MA. VICTORIA** and JOSE ARANEZ II, M.D., **MA. ISABEL, MA. LOURDES, JOSE EPITACIO, MA. CLEMENCIA,** and **JOSELINA**; grandchildren **AGNES** and **PAOLO ABAIGAR; PAUL JEDD** and **PATRICK JARED SUNE; BEATRIZ ISABELLE** and **ANGELO JOSE QUEROL; MADEL, JOSE ROBERTO,** and **LAWRENCE RELACION; ROBERTO JOSE, ALBERT JOHN, JOSE CELESTINO,** and **PAULINE QUEROL; PATRICIA, JERIC, MONIQUE,** and **RYAN ARANEZ;** and **ERIC RAMOS**; sisters **PORFIRIA** (†), **EUFEMIA,** and **EPITACIA**; brothers-in-law **AMADO RAYALA** (†); **JOSE RELACION, M.D., NICOLAS RELACION,** and **DOMINGO RELACION** (†); and **DOMINGO BAGADIONG** (†); sisters-in-law **ANGELINA MUNOZ, JOSEFINA RELACION** (†), **LEONOR REPOTENTE, JULIE CRISOL,** and **ERLINDA CAL**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the QUEROL RESIDENCE at Bagumbayan Centro, Ligao City. Interment will be on WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2005, 1:00 P.M., at the FAMILY MAUSOLEUM, LIGAO CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

Our dearly beloved

Emiliana Amaguin Allones

Peacefully joined her Creator on 28 April 2005. She was 84.

Her bereaved family: husband **Nicasio S. Allones** (†); children **Cynthia, Neil, Moonyeen, Luisa Zita** and **Joel**; granchildren **Yvonne, Aldrick, Geraldine, Raymond, Joshua Anton & Juliana Patricia**; other relatives, loved ones and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel, Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels in Bacolod City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 3 May 2005 at the Sacred Heart Memorial Park in Sum-ag Bacolod City after a 2:00 PM Mass at the San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Tangub, Bacolod City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for the following:

Lot No.	Qty/Unit	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	420 units	PC Workstation, Intel Pentium IV, 3.6 GHz with HT Technology*	P 26,040,000.00
2	116 units	Notebooks, Intel Pentium M, 2.0 GHz*	13,920,000.00
3	15 units	Server, Intel Pentium Xecn, 3.5 GHz Dual Processor capable (or higher); 1 processor on board*	4,285,000.00
	19 units	External DLT Tape Drive for IRIS servers (external)*	

* Per BSP specifications

Delivery period : Lots 1 & 2 – Forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of P.O.
Lot 3 – Thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of P.O.

Bid documents are available from **30 April 2005 to 12 May 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P13,020.00 (Lot 1), P6,960.00 (Lot 2) and P2,150.00 (Lot 3) at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building
Cor. A. Mabini & P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 523-1321

Bidding Date and Time : **25 May 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate,**
Place : **Manila**

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Y2004 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet)
3. Y2004 Income Tax Return; Copy each of the Filing Reference, Payment Confirmation and Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
4. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
5. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts, or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid; or a certification from the Bank stating that the bidder has a cash deposit with a holding period of at least one (1) month from the date of bidding. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows:
   NFCC = [(Current assets – Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10
6. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
7. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
8. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
9. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree
10. List of service centers that will support the BSP branches in various regions
11. Current and valid distributorship/dealership contract with the manufacturer and/or local distributor of the item(s) to be supplied; and
12. List of reference site(s) of successful similar project(s) for each lot from Y2002 in amount(s) equivalent to at least 50% of the ABC of the bidded lot; list(s) to include names and contact number(s) of authorized person(s) of reference site(s).

Envelope No. 2:

1. Instructions to Bidders
2. Duly accomplished Certification/Undertaking
3. Original Bid Security
4. BSP issued Hardware/Software specifications (should be initiated by authorized signing official)
5. Product information of the offer containing the following:
   - Brand and model of the unit(s) to be offered
   - Part number and serial number
   - Product/operation data and manufacturer's installation instructions and other information necessary for evaluation purposes
6. Warranty Certificate of at lesat twelve (12) months warranty for parts and labor to commence after BSP's issuance of the Certificate of Acceptance of the lot(s)
7. BSP supplied Service Level Agreement duly signed by the authorized signing official
8. BSP supplied Evaluation Procedure duly signed by the authorized signing official and technical representative
9. BSP supplied Evaluation Sheet (2 copies), to be accomplished by the Technical Representative and countersigned by the authorized signing official; and
10. Certificate of quality assurance from the product manufacturer (e.g., ISO, BVI, UL, FCC Class B and other reputable standard issuing authority).

Envelope No. 3:

Price Proposal with attached cost breakdown

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 5-storey Building, BSP Main Complex. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, Jr.
Chairman

(PDI – April 30, 2005)

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People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Volunteers to carry out different kind of medical mission

A GROUP of non-medical persons will carry out what they call "medical mission" in the different barangays of the Science city of Muñoz to help ease the physical sufferings and attain body soundness of those complaining about certain health problems. The medical mission will be carried out by 25 volunteers who trained on conducting reflexology, an alternative healing technique. The volunteers are enlisted under the health program of the San Sebastian Catholic parish here. Currently, the volunteers are conducting reflexo-foot therapy daily, except on Sundays, at the alternative healing center at the church compound here, said Gerry Lacambra, head therapist. He said that from 15 to more than 25 patients seek treatment in the center daily.

He said a number of patients who suffered stroke or have been complaining of high blood sugar level, insomnia and arthritis have reported improvements in their physical infirmities. Lacambra said their group decided on holding regular medical mission in the different barangays here as many residents said they could not go to the center because of transport fees problem and for other reasons. He said the therapy will be conducted in the barangay's gym or chapel. He added that those seeking refloxo-foot therapy do not pay a fee for the 30-minute service. They are only requested to give "love offerings" which in turn are used for the transport fare of the volunteers.

Lacambra said all the volunteers studied and memorized all 97 points at the human sole and their nerve connections to the different organs of the body. Through the use of a small pointed wooden rod, the volunteer presses each of the points at the sole. "When a patient experiences pain in the pressed point, he or she is told what specific body organ is not well," Lacambra said. "After a few more session, almost always the patient does not complain of pain anymore," he added.

Parish priest Fr. Jimmy Duero said the volunteer therapists underwent a two-week training last August. The training was conducted by Artemio Tejidor, executive director of the Pedro Calunsod Alternative Healing program of the Archdiocese of Cebu, he said. He added that the alternative healing program in Cebu, featuring refloxo-foot therapy, has become a very popular program due to the health benefits it provides to residents, particularly to the poor in that city and nearby areas. The technique used in this form of therapy, he said, was brought to Cebu by a Filipino priest who was formerly assigned as a missionary in China. The priest learned it from a Chinese practitioner. Duero said that another parish, that in Triala, Guimba, Nueva Ecija is also carrying out this type of alternative healing practice. He said that based on positive testimonies of patients, the alternative healing practice they are presently carrying out is providing benefits to residents here.

Lita del Rosario, one of the volunteers, said most often they imbibe the "bad energy" of those who seek therapy that makes them tired and could not sleep at once. As instructed, she said, they would light a candle, warm their hands over it, and then meditate. True enough, she said, the tiredness goes away and the needed body rest comes easily. She added that they feel good when their patients come back again to report that they feel good.

JOLLIBEE SUPPORTS BIR'S OPERATION DIKIT TAX CAMPAIGN

In time for the Tax Awareness Month, Jollibee joined other merchants and retailers at the Ayala Center in Makati for the official kick-off of the Operation Dikit. Launched as a joint tax campaign of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the Manila Business Club (MBC), Operation Dikit aims to promote, enhance, and instill nationwide awareness on the importance and value of taxes to society for economic development. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo led the list of attendees that also included top government officials and members of the business community. Among those present were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr., MBC chair Ricardo Romulo, Jollibee Foods Corp EVP and COO Ernesto Tanmantiong, Ayala Group of Companies chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, and Globe Telecom president Gerry Ablaza. The Jollibee store in Glorietta was one of the first recipients of the BIR decals to remind consumers to demand for their receipts after every transaction. Jollibee top executives, led by EVP and COO Ernesto Tanmantiong, VP for marketing Inez Reyes and VP for operations Iyoh Villamayor, welcomed Secretary Purisima, MBC's Ricardo Romulo and several Boy Scouts who presided over the BIR stickering of the Jollibee cash registers.

Chill out with Jolly 'Zerts

JOLLIBEE introduces the Jolly 'Zerts, the fast food chain's newest and exciting dessert line. It's a yummy concoction of all things fruity, icy, chocolatey, and everything else in between. Young adults just can't get enough of Jollibee's Ice Craze. So aside from regular favorites like Fruit Salad and Mais con Hielo, there's the new Ice Craze Coffee Jelly. It's a blend of creamy coffee syrup and nata strings topped with sweet cream and dribbled with caramel. Have a spoonful of these frosty treats for only P27. There's also a thrilling bite in every Jolly Krunchy Twirl, with soft servings of Vanilla ice cream dipped in rich Chocolate coating and topped with crunchy rice crispies. The new Bubble Gum flavor will absolutely blow you away. Try both lip-smacking twirls for only P12 each. Everyday's a sundae treat for teens at Jollibee. Aside from the classic Chocolate Sundae, there's the new Strawberry Sundae, with real strawberry toppings and strawberry syrup; plus the new Mango Caramel Sundae, decked with mango cubes and caramel syrup. All are sweetly priced at P28 only. Mom and dad will definitely warm up to Jollibee's great-tasting 'Zert Pies. Aside from their favorite Peach Mango Pie and Buko Piña Pie, there's the new Choco Mallow Pie, perfect for the chocoholics. It's packed with the sweet goodness of dark chocolate and creamy mallow filling in a buttery yellow crust. All pies are priced at P15 each. For an unforgettable dessert experience, try the new Jolly 'Zerts today.

GAWAD KALINGA, LONDON PARISH HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

There are now seventy more homeowners in the Philippines with a brighter future, as a result of a donation made by Chiswick parishioners in London two years ago. In 2003, a donation drive organized by the Couples for Christ in the UK, under the Gawad Kalinga ('providing care') program of the CFC in the Philippines, raised £36,000 from the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace and St. Edward Parish in Chiswick, West London. The donation was earmarked for the construction of low-cost houses in the Philippines to benefit homeless families. The turnover of the donation to Gawad Kalinga, through CFC representative Carlos Yturzaeta, was witnessed by Chiswick parish priest Fr. James Curry, London-based Filipino priest Fr. Gideon Wagay, and then Ambassador to the UK Cesar Bautista. Recently, all four of them were present during the official handover of the houses to beneficiary families at the Amparo Subdivision in Caloocan City, where three clusters of dwellings organized into Kapitbahayan (neighborhood) associations have been built by the Gawad Kalinga, with free labor given by the beneficiaries themselves, on land that has either been purchased by the GK or donated by generous patrons. The donors from overseas as well as from the Philippines are called Gawad Kalinga Partners. Shown with some of the new homeowners of Kapitbahayang Amparo and Gawad Kalinga project officers are (4th-7th from left) Fr. Gideon Wagay, Fr. James Curry, Ambassador Cesar Bautista and Carlos Yturzaeta of Couples for Christ.

Filipino is Most Outstanding Jaycee of the World in 2004

REGINALD T. Yu

IN THE recently concluded 59th World Congress of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) held in Fukuoka, Japan from Nov. 21 to 26, 2004, a Filipino has once again proven that they have what it takes to be among the world's finest. Reginald T. Yu was recently adjudged the "Most Outstanding JCI Member of the World" Award, during the 59th JCI World Congress held in Fukuoka, Japan. Reggie, an honor graduate from the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration (BSBAA '89) and Xavier High School ('84), carries the distinction of becoming only one of five Filipinos in the worldwide organization's history who have been bestowed this prestigious honor since JCI was founded almost 60 years ago. He also holds the honor of having been the only JCI member who was accorded the "Most Outstanding JCI Member of the Philippines" twice and "Most Outstanding JCI Member of the Asia-Pacific" twice in a row, in recognition for his having greatly contributed to the positive public image of Junior Chamber International. Since he joined the JCI Philippines-Manila (Manila Jaycees) in 1991, he has served in numerous local and national positions, including National Secretary-General of JCI Philippines (Philippine Jaycees) and chapter Secretary-General of Manila Jaycees.

OPERATION BIGAY LUNAS

Last March 1, Mercury Drug commemorated its 60th (diamond) anniversary by conducting 'Operation Bigay Lunas' (OBL) in 60 cities and municipalities nationwide. The OBL is an annual, all day free consultations and medicines for indigent patients where it served over 100,000 beneficiaries. This undertaking was made possible through the cooperation of its business partners, provincial governors, city and municipal mayors. OBL aims to improve the quality of healthcare in the community. The Operation Bigay Lunas is a part of Mercury Drug's commitment of helping keep the nation healthy. Photo shows the Mercury Drug OBL volunteers dispensing free medicines to indigent patients of Iligan City. Mercury Drug through its Operation Bigay Lunas continues its commitment of helping keep the nation healthy.

BTS Clips

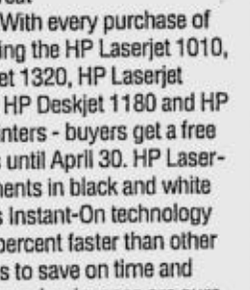
HP promo

HP PHILIPPINES gives customers more than just high-quality and reliable printing with their market-leading printers, they also give out great deals and fabulous freebies. With every purchase of selected HP printers - including the HP Laserjet 1010, HP Laserjet 1015, HP Laserjet 1320, HP Laserjet 1320n, HP Laserjet 1320Tn, HP Deskjet 1180 and HP Deskjet 9300 Color Inkjet printers - buyers get a free computer table. Promo runs until April 30. HP Laserjet printers churn out documents in black and white at up to 15 pages minute. Its Instant-On technology prints first pages up to 353 percent faster than other printers, allowing businesses to save on time and costs. With HP Deskjet printers, businesses are sure to achieve high-quality prints of up to A3+ size, helping them maximize their investments. For more information about the promo, just call the HP's Help Desk at 867-3557 or email them at ph.contact@hp.com.

Bangus Festival 2005

THE CITY of Dagupan is gearing up to regain its world record for devising the longest barbecue grill during its annual Bangus Festival slated from April 24 to May 2. This year's festival will open with a motorcade followed by '101 ways to cook Bangus,' with city-based chefs pitting their culinary talents against each other as they introduce new ways to cook the famed milkfish. Other activities include Bangus Ed Karosa or Grand Creative Float Parade, Bangus Rodeo and the Gilon! Gilon! Ed Dalan - a street dancing competition. The event will be capped by the celebration of the Pista'y Dayat, a thanksgiving for the various blessings of the sea.

New lawyer



CLAIRE L.C. Salva

CLAIRE L.C. Salva passed the 2004 Supreme Court Bar Examinations. She graduated Second Honor with a degree of Juris Doctor at the Ateneo de Manila Law School. She also holds a degree in BS Industrial Engineering from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. An alumni of Immaculate Conception Academy, Greenhills, she is the only daughter of proud parents lawyer Antonio C.O. Salva of the San Juan Metro Manila and Pilar L. Salva of Zamboanga City. Lawyer Claire Salva is now working at Sycip, Salazar, Hernandez and Gatmaitan Law Firm in Makati.

ASIACO JOINS 10TH WORLDBEX 2005

Asiaco Enterprises International Corp, provider of home and office organizers was one of the participants in the recently conducted 10th Worldbex exhibit held at the World Trade Center. The event showcased the collection of modern product lines of closet accessories, aluminum and stainless steel modular cabinets, wall mounted kitchen accessories, luxuria cabinets. The company's best-selling products like the stainless and powder coated pull-out wire baskets were also featured in the exhibit. Special items such as mini trolley, rotating clothes stands, and new pull down hanging organizer also caught the interest of the visitors. For free technical advice contact Asiaco's Customer Service at 744-1556 or at 0920-9100936.

PEDALLING FOR BETTER HEALTH

The 2nd 'Bike for Hope' charity Bike Ride organized by the Compañero Rene Cayetano Foundation and led by Senator Pia Cayetano recently led a group of riders up to Baguio City. In a remarkable display of strength and endurance, the good Senator as well as cycling enthusiasts from different parts of the country pedaled up to Baguio City by way of Rosario, Pangasinan. Nestlé Baby Food joins hands with Senator Pia Cayetano in spreading nutrition education and good feeding practices to the various towns that the charity Bike Ride passed along the way. With the cooperation and support of local government, through the different town Mayors and Health Department Officials of Pozorubio, Sison, and Rosario Pangasinan, Nestlé Baby Food and Sen. Cayetano distributed Nestlé Baby Cereals, Nutrition Reading Materials and other Nestlé giveaways to the residents of the aforementioned towns. Nestlé Philippines through Nestlé Baby Food supports Senator Pia Cayetano and her 'Bike for Hope' charity bike ride.

Product Files

SwissCard: The yuppie handyman's tool

VICTORINOX, the makers of the world-renowned Swiss Army Knife from Switzerland, has taken its beloved product to another level with such needs of today's corporate and professional achievers in mind. The end result is called the SwissCard, an ultra-convenient multi-tool which features 11 handy functions that still carries the same features the standard army knife has been known for but in a thin, sleek design not far from the dimensions of an ordinary credit card-making it even more convenient to carry in one's pocket or slip into one's purse. Victorinox Swiss Army Knives are exclusively distributed by Star Paper Corp, located at No. 46 Joy St., Grace Village, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 364-6040 to 49. Victorinox is available at Zwilling J.A. Henckels showrooms, National Bookstore, Rustan's Department Store, Hahn Manila, SM department stores, Chris Sports Plaza, Store Shop and other leading department stores nationwide. A raffle promo dubbed the "Swiss Champs at Stake" is ongoing until April 30, where 20 Swiss Champ knives will be given away. Every P500 worth of Victorinox products purchased entitles the buyer to a raffle ticket. Hurry and don't miss out on this exciting promo.

Every day, come home to a big vacation.

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GARDEN
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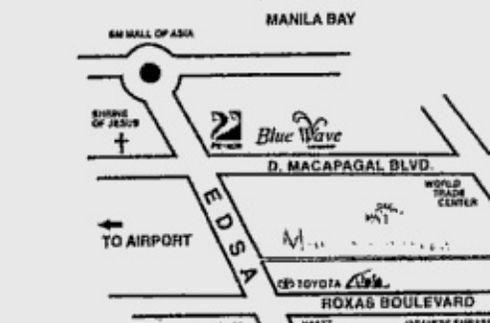

Introducing: Bay Garden Mactan Tower, the height of resort-inspired living from Federal Land.

The first thing you will notice is the view. The blue sky spreading out before you through your magnificent floor-to-ceiling windows. The cityscape unfolding before you from your outdoor lanai.

You will discover space. Lots of space. The outdoor playground. The mini-putting green. The outdoor barbecue. The poolside cabanas. Because Mactan Tower boasts of generous open space within the development.

So feel free to move. Relax. Be yourself. There will be no boundaries.

At Mactan Tower, every day feels like a vacation. That's why living here is sure to be a unique and liberating experience.

Visit us at Roxas Blvd., cor. Edsa Ext., Metropolitan Park, Pasay City.

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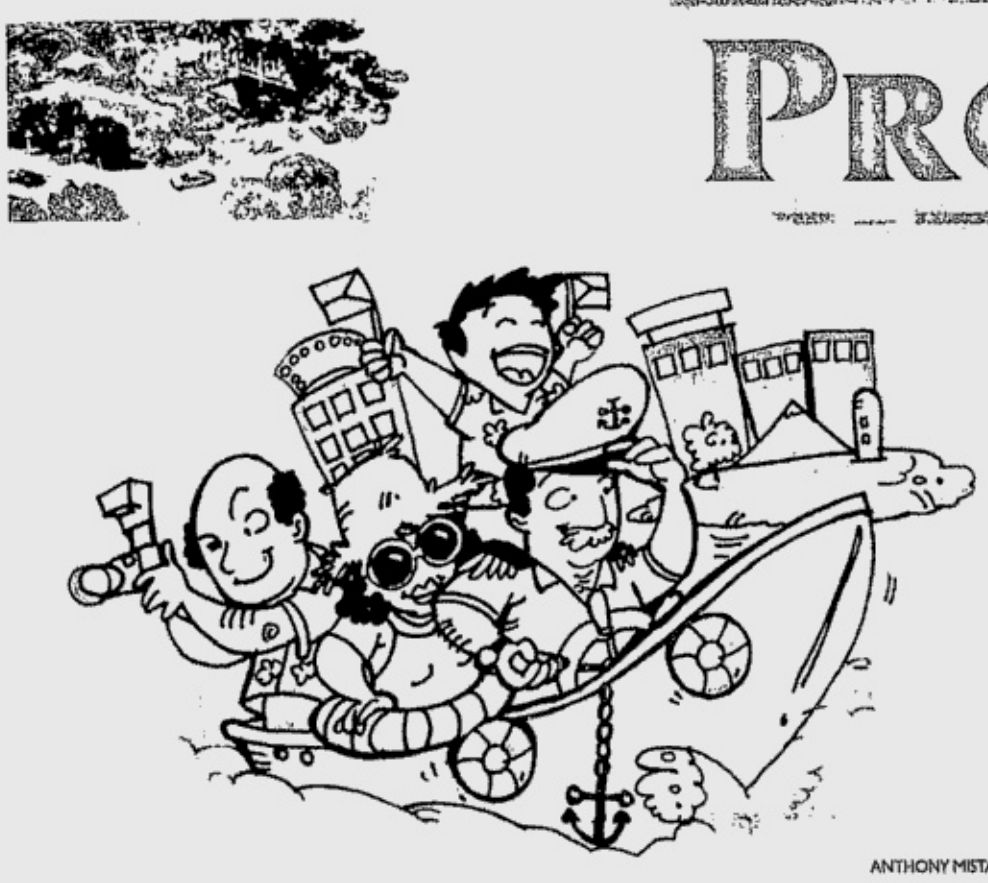
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B2-1

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



ANTHONY MISTADES

Bright prospect seen for leisure industry

By Charles E. Buban

AMID ongoing global turbulence in the previously and traditionally known and popular holiday resorts elsewhere in the region, the Philippines is receiving more and more attention and recognition as a safe haven.

Tourism arrival and hotel occupancy rates are well on the rise and were only interrupted by last year's tsunami that hit the region, according to CB Richard Ellis, a leading vertically integrated real estate services firm and a major provider of real estate services in the country.

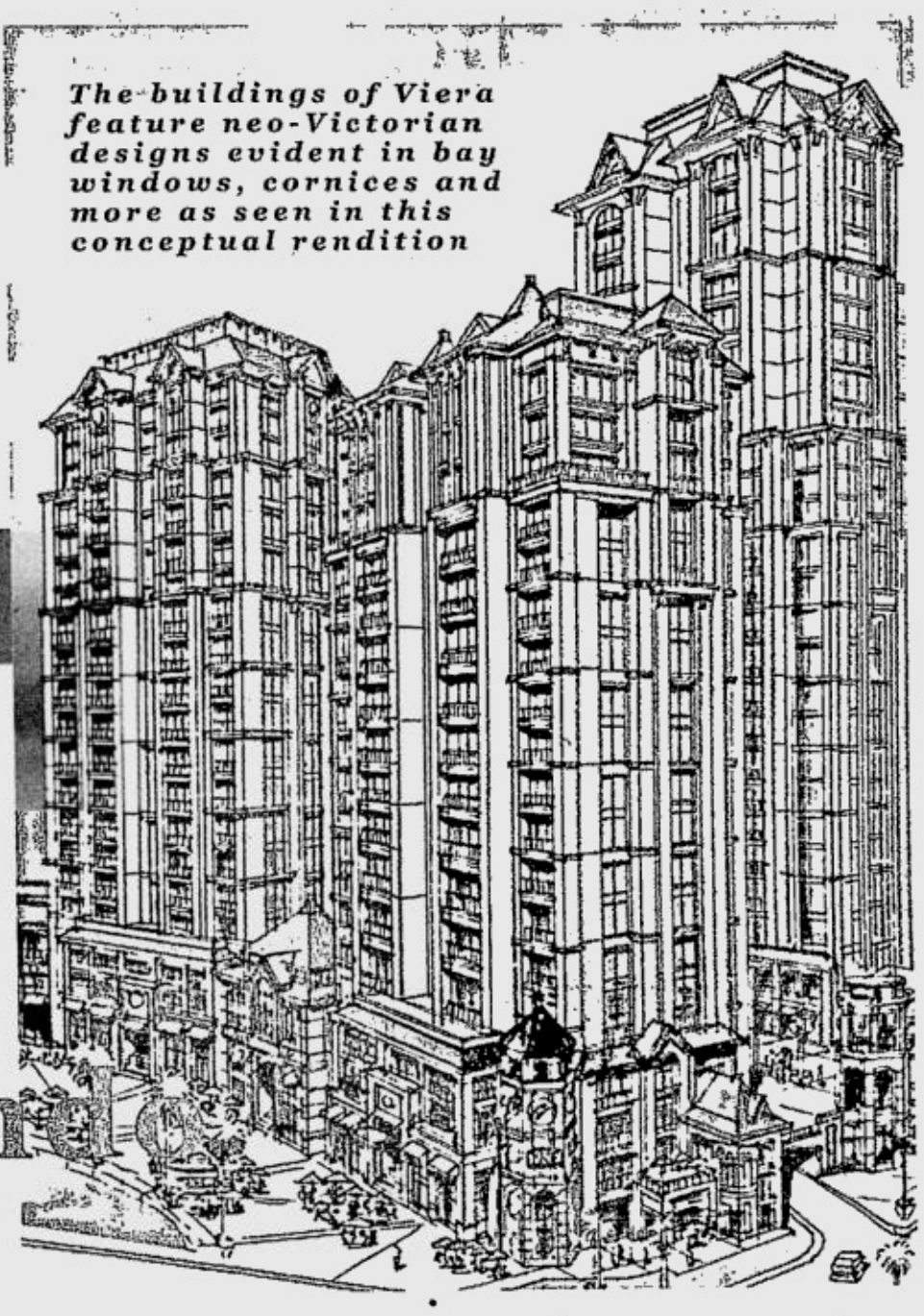
"Last year's record deluxe hotel occupancy rates of 71.03 percent and serviced apartment occupancy rates of above 90 percent are direct reflections of renewed business and investor interest in the Philippines," announced CBRE Philippines managing director and president Rick Santos during a recent

BRIGHT/ B2-2

Soon rising in the 50 hectare development of Brittany Bay, Sucat, Viera offers a unique proposition in an upscale condominium: a view of Laguna de Bay, the refreshing bay breeze and its closeness to Alabang and Makati.

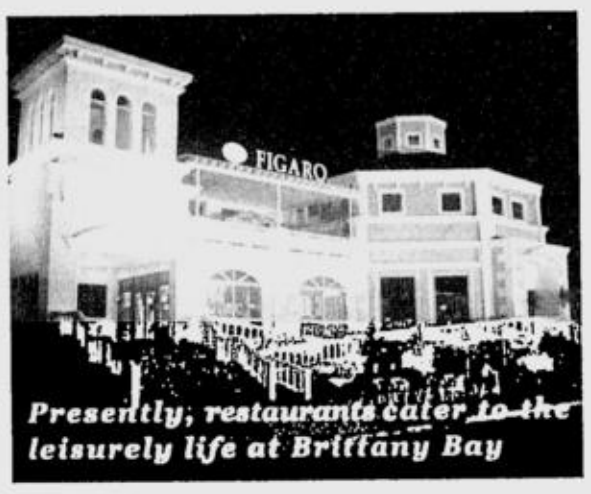
Moreover, with its generous space and the thriving commercial area that will soon sprawl across 8 hectares all around the condo, Viera provides for a home life that is both comfortable and convenient—exactly what is demanded by life today.

The buildings of Viera feature neo-Victorian designs evident in bay windows, cornices and more as seen in this conceptual rendition



Viera at Brittany Bay

A bay view, the bay breeze and the nearby location— all in one unique upscale condo



Presently, restaurants cater to the leisurely life at Brittany Bay

The Bay Area: Viera takes advantage of the distinctive benefits offered by Laguna de Bay. Most of Viera's units have balconies for gazing at the bay view. The condo is built to funnel the bay breeze all around.

Units are designed for cross ventilation so you enjoy fresh air any time of the day right inside your condo. And with multiple entry points, you have easy access to and from Viera when going to the nearby business districts of Alabang and Makati.

The Wharf: Interweaving across 8 hectares of Brittany Bay, the restaurants and shops collectively called The Wharf, offers a choice of leisure activities. This will soon be connected by tree-lined brick pathways and elevated walkways to Viera.

To date, a number of restaurants have already set up shop at Brittany Bay: Dencio's, Figaro, and just recently, Grappa's. Oribe, the Japanese restaurant and The East Bay Center for Music & Arts, the piano, painting, ballet learning center will open soon.

Everything San Francisco: Viera echoes the San Francisco-inspired neo-Victorian architecture that reverberates all across Brittany Bay.

Viera provides for a home life that is both comfortable and convenient

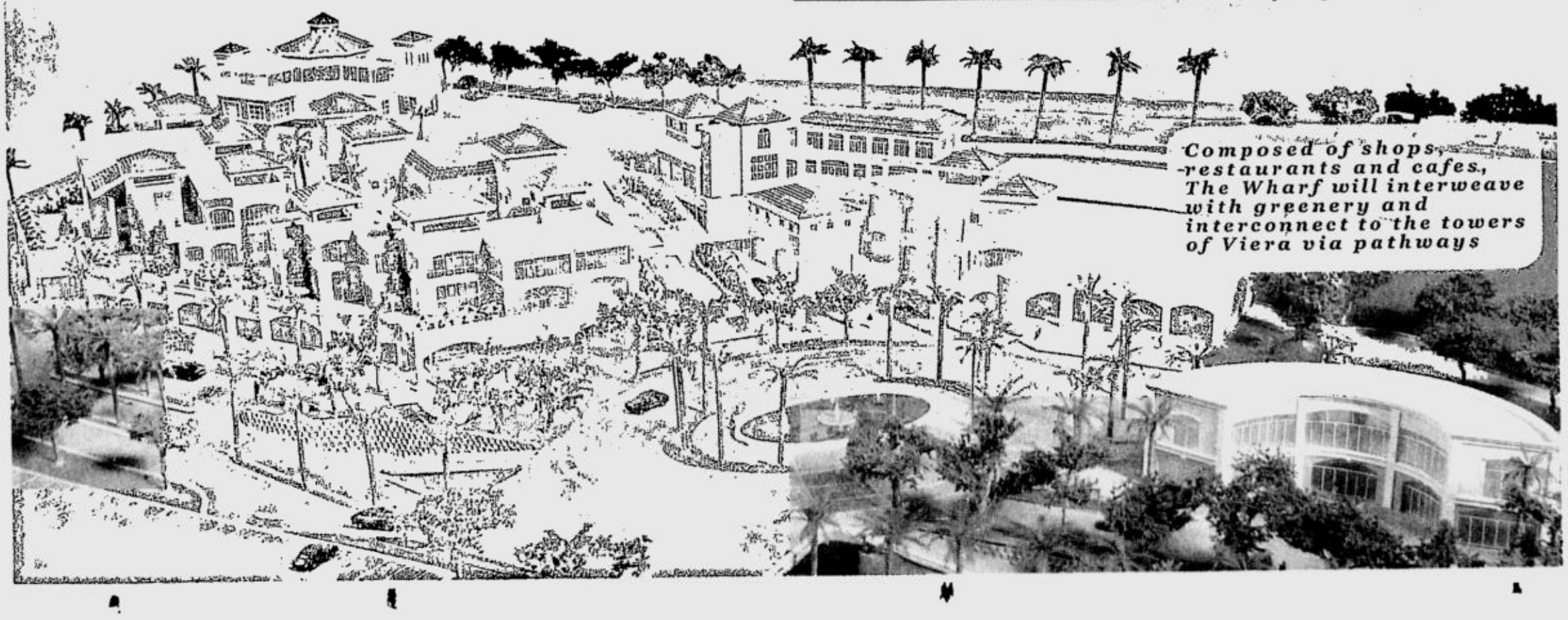
A spectacular sunrise welcomes your mornings at Viera

Along with the bay breeze,the bay view, the nearby location, the restaurants and shops, Viera makes for a life similar to the kind experienced in one of the world's great cities.

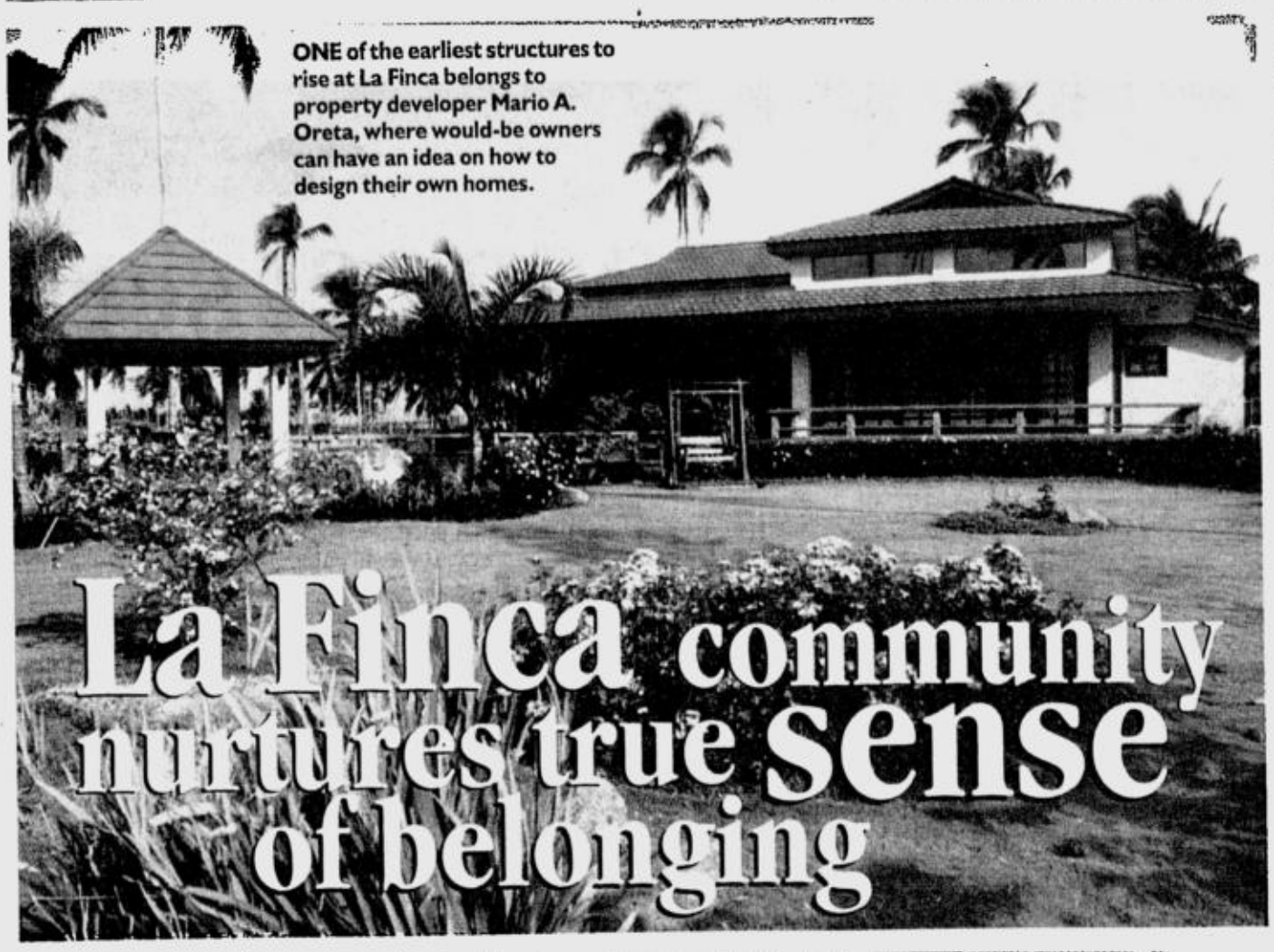
The Posadas Family & Brittany: Sharing a common vision, Brittany Corporation works in partnership with the Posadas family to build Brittany Bay, an ideal setting that makes the most of all the benefits provided by the bay.

With Viera, Brittany Corporation offers a unique upscale condominium—and a unique kind of life.

See what makes Viera so unique. Get a Property Preview. Call: 842 1360 • 850 2868



Composed of shops, restaurants and cafes, The Wharf will interweave with greenery and interconnect to the towers of Viera via pathways



ONE of the earliest structures to rise at La Finca belongs to property developer Mario A. Oreta, where would-be owners can have an idea on how to design their own homes.

La Finca community nurtures true sense of belonging

WITH THE SWIMMING pool, bath house (steam bath) and jacuzzi now operational, residents and guests can fully enjoy La Finca's Country Club.

IT IS every homeowner's dream to feel right at home in the community they chose to live in. In fact, more and more discerning buyers are looking beyond the usual amenities and instead, put value to the general "feel" of its surroundings particularly the neighborhood.

This holds true for La Finca Farm and Country Resort in Lipa City, Batangas. The 18-hectare residential farm resort accommodates just a little over 100 homes, thus, making it easy for residents and lot owners here to establish good neighborly ties.

Sense of belonging

According to sales and marketing director Lisette Baltazar, this sense of belonging makes La Finca stand out. "We want people to know that apart from the privileges we afford our residents, more than anything, we want them to experience being part of a small but very close La Finca community," says Baltazar.

Creating opportunities to nurture such rapport among its growing number of homeowners deemed important for La Finca. This was exemplified by the number of activities catered to provide camaraderie and friendly ties among lot owners, the most recent one being a successful hosting of a badminton tournament at the Lipa Badminton Courts.

Says Baltazar: "Our objective really is for our homeowners to get acquainted and at the same enjoy a friendly game of badminton. We just want to them to spend time together and have fun."

Resort facilities

Committed to tending to all the needs of its residents, La Finca provides first-class resort facilities such as a network of infinity and wading pools, right across an elegantly designed fine dining restaurant with an al fresco nook and also, jacuzzi, steam rooms, a gym and a tennis court.

Those who love the outdoors can try their hand on fishing at the lagoon or enjoy "bonding" with friends and family at the picnic groves or simply let the children run around the kiddie playground.

AN INDOOR and al fresco restaurant overlooking the mountains offers a refreshing dining backdrop.

Delivering its promise

Indeed, La Finca works hard to deliver its promise. "What we want is to provide urban living in a suburban setting, an ideal scenario for families looking for a weekend home or a place to come home to for people who wish to have a more laid-back lifestyle. What we discovered is in doing so, our lot owners found a true sense of belongingness in a community, winning friends and pleasant neighbors," says Baltazar.

"In La Finca, you are not just a number. Here, everyone knows each other... no frills, no competition, you can just be yourself. It truly is a place you can relax and call home." This is how Baltazar encapsulates La Finca in a few words.

To know more about the charmed life at La Finca Farm and Country Resort, call 889-8588; 886-4004 to 05; 886-4008 and 889-9999, or fax at 889-9062 or visit www.lafinca.com.ph

City Service launches Skywalker window cleaning system

CITY Service Corp., the country's largest and most technically advanced janitorial maintenance companies, has launched the revolutionary Skywalker high-rise window cleaning system.

Unlike the traditional use of the gondola, the Skywalker system utilizes the controlled rope descent system in cleaning windows.

A "Skywalker" is securely strapped to a seat and then utilizing his controlled rope descent system, rappels down a building as he cleans each window, panel by panel.

Window cleaning

The simplicity of the system greatly reduces rigging time. As compared to the use of the gondola, the job can be completed in 40 percent less time resulting to 25 percent lower contract cost.

Each Skywalker is trained and certified on the Skywalker system. He is physically fit, responsible and above all, safety conscious. He understands and respects the rules for safety climbing and rappelling.

The Skywalker system has been manufactured and is adapted for window cleaning. The various descent components are compatible and have a minimum tensile strength of 5,000 pounds.

Primary concern

Safety is the primary concern of City Service Corp. The company implements strict precautionary guidelines like the inspection of all equipment prior to use; proper rigging including sound anchorage and tiebacks with emphasis on providing tiebacks, corrosion hooks or similar nonpermanent anchorage system; use of a separate fall arrest system including bodybelt, sit harness, full-body harness, rope grab and lifeline. Provisions for rescue are also present.

City Service was established in 1950 and is the first ISO 9001:2000 (E) certified cleaning and janitorial maintenance contractor in the country. Apart from its window cleaning systems, it also offers janitorial, gardening and grounds and specialty carpet and upholstery shampooing maintenance services. For more information about the Skywalker High Rise Window Cleaning System and other services, please call 833-7080 or e-mail oicenter_luzro@cityservicecorp.com or log on to www.cityservicecorp.net.

5 mid-scale townhouse projects to rise in Metro Manila, suburbs

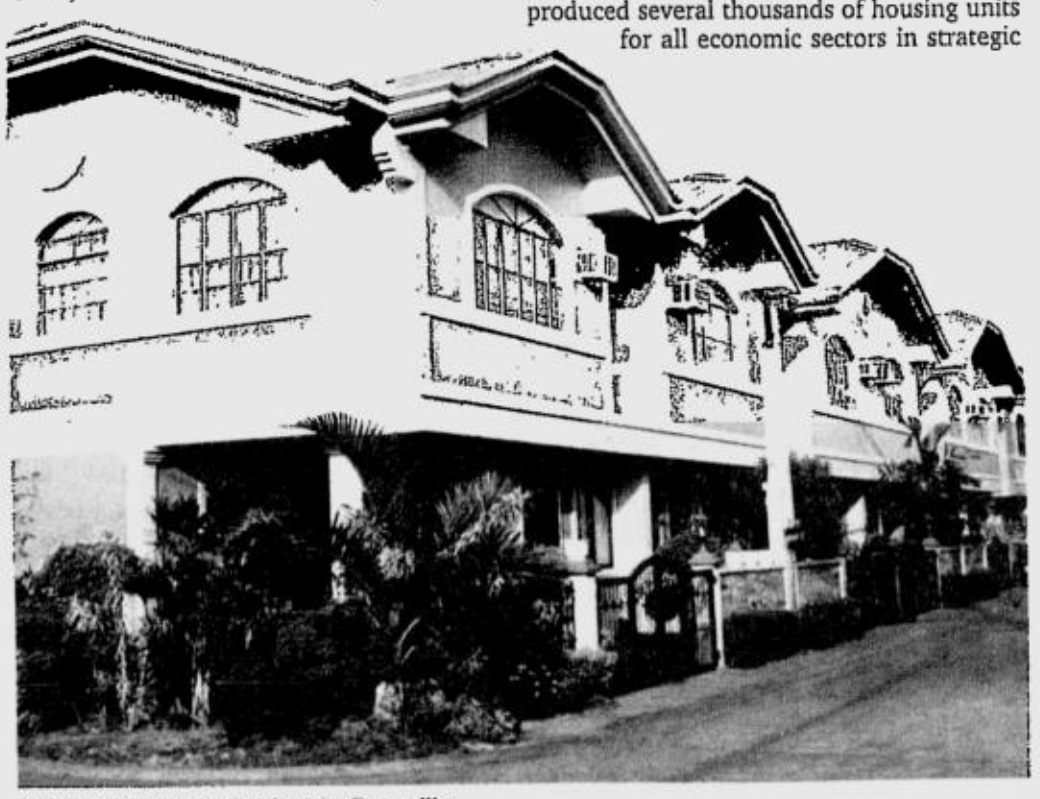
SISTER companies Durawood Construction and Lumber Inc. and Duraville Realty and Development Corp. are developing five middle-scale townhouse projects in and around Metro Manila.

Three of these projects are located in Antipolo City in Rizal: Antipolo Brittany Executive Homes Phases 1 and 2 in Barangay San Isidro, and the Meadowood Royale Townhomes on Sumulong Highway in Barangay Mayamot. The two other projects are the Pasig Millennium Gardens in Maybunga, Pasig City and Mary Cris Complex (Phase 5) Executive Homes in Imus, Cavite.

Quality housing units

Since its inception in 1991, Duraville, in its capacity as Durawood's real estate arm, has produced several thousands of housing units for all economic sectors in strategic areas in Marikina, San Mateo, Angono, and Antipolo in Rizal; Novaliches, Quezon City, Kalookan City, Imus and General Trias in Cavite; Plaridel, Bulacan; and Pasig City.

Durawood was formed in 1983 to serve the market for building materials in Antipolo and other towns in Rizal province. The company decided to spin off Duraville in 1990 to produce quality housing units at lower costs.



PASIG Millennium Gardens by Duraville

Track record

Bolstering Duraville's track record in housing development are three awards from the government: the Outstanding Socialized Development Award and a Certificate of Recognition for Socialized Housing Development from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. and a citation for producing the highest volume of socialized housing projects from the Home Guaranty Corp.

"This was possible because as a construction supply company, we could count on a steady supply of construction materials," said Benson L. Perelonia, Duraville president. "Further, buying by bulk generates savings that we in turn pass on to our home buyers in terms of affordable prices." All projects are planned around appropriate construction technology, design, materials, user requirements and environmental factors.

Buyers and brokers who want to see the projects may call Duraville at 645-3977 and 645-3958 or visit the firm at Durawood Building, No. 177 Sumulong Highway, Mayamot, Antipolo City or e-mail durawood@edsamail.com.

CYBERVILLE'S clubhouse with its modern, state-of-the-art features

Sta. Lucia Realty opens Cyberville subdivision

THE PREVIOUSLY rustic roads of Bulacan now boast of a community with sophisticated amenities. Cyberville Commercial and Residential Estates is the latest residential, commercial and sports development of Sta. Lucia Realty in the heart of Malolos, Bulacan, only 20 kilometers north of Manila.

Superior state-of-the-art designs by the country's premiere architects make Cyberville adaptable to the times. Unconventional geometric patterns and technologically advanced facilities will give you a feel of modern living situated against a backdrop of countryside sights.

Families will surely take pleasure in its recreational center that houses the swimming pool, children's park and playground, basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton courts. A multipurpose clubhouse with great virtual design is perfect for conferences, private parties and other special events.

Cyberville is now fully completed, individually titled and ready for house construction. Take advantage of being one of the first tenants of its exclusive but reasonably priced residential lots. For inquiries, please call Asian Pacific Realty and Brokerage Corp. at 9112240 or (044) 6902007.

Bright prospect seen for leisure industry

From page B2-1

conference held at the Shangri-La Makati.

Increasing number

Likewise, the increasing number of new airlines setting up and expanding their Philippine flight options and the Kuok Group's P4 billion Shangri-La project in Boracay—their 5th property in the Philippines—are testaments to international investor confidence in the future of the country's hospitality and leisure industry, said Santos.

The Kuok Group of Malaysia had decided to invest in the world-famous beach destination after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared a portion of the island, located in Aklan's northwestern tip, a tourism economic zone with tax and tariff incentives for investors.

Future looks bright

During the conference, Santos also noted that the future looks bright for the country considering the increasing numbers of Korean, Taiwanese, overseas Filipinos (4 million in the United States have a combined income of over $25 billion) and especially Chinese (only a fraction of whom visited the Philippines last year) tourists who are discovering the best destinations the Philippines has to offer.

"This trend only reflects last year's tourism arrival figures from other key East Asian markets, which all rose by double digit percentages and have continued to rise this year. Thus, now is the time for savvy investors to consider investments in the hospitality and leisure industries here," said Santos.

CBRE Philippines associate director Trent Frankum advised landowners to take these opportunities to invest in their own hospitality and leisure developments, adding that they will also be able to help promote their province.

Well positioned

Santos revealed that CBRE Philippines—with over P7 billion under management—is well positioned to assist these investors will all their hospitality and leisure industry needs.

CBRE Philippines was established in 1998 and has since established its position as the market leader in the commercial brokerage services segment and undertakes a large proportion of tenant representation assignments for multinational corporations entering or expanding operations in the Philippines.

The company is also rapidly expanding its operations in asset services, with currently over 130,000 square meters of over $400 million of prime commercial, residential properties under its management spread over major cities in Metro Manila.

Portofino presents new masterpiece 'Raphael'

REAL estate maverick Brittany Corp. adds another masterpiece to its celebrated upscale master-planned community Portofino Courtyards. This multi-phase development project inspired by the lovely seaport town in southern Italy presents the splendor of Raphael.

Italian-inspired Raphael is the second of the new model homes lining the posh community of Portofino. It is a Mediterranean-style house with a floor area of 249 square meters on a minimum lot area of 300 sq m. It has a beckoning porch that opens to a lush garden and a courtyard positioned at one side. The Raphael also has a third level which can be converted to a family room or a guest room.

It has four bedrooms with individual toilets and baths, ideal for big families. Aside from these, the Raphael also has a balcony allowing an unhampered view of the garden and a two-car garage with an automated door. Both enclaves have an auxiliary kitchen, a utility area and maid's quarters with its own toilet and bath.

Courtyard homes

Building on the success of Portofino Heights, wherein all lots were sold out in less than a year, Brittany now offers a limited number of Courtyard residences at Portofino.

The Courtyard homes are a unique application of the "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept, a design which is exclusive to Brittany. Brittany's concept of the courtyard is all about bringing the outdoors in.

Launch

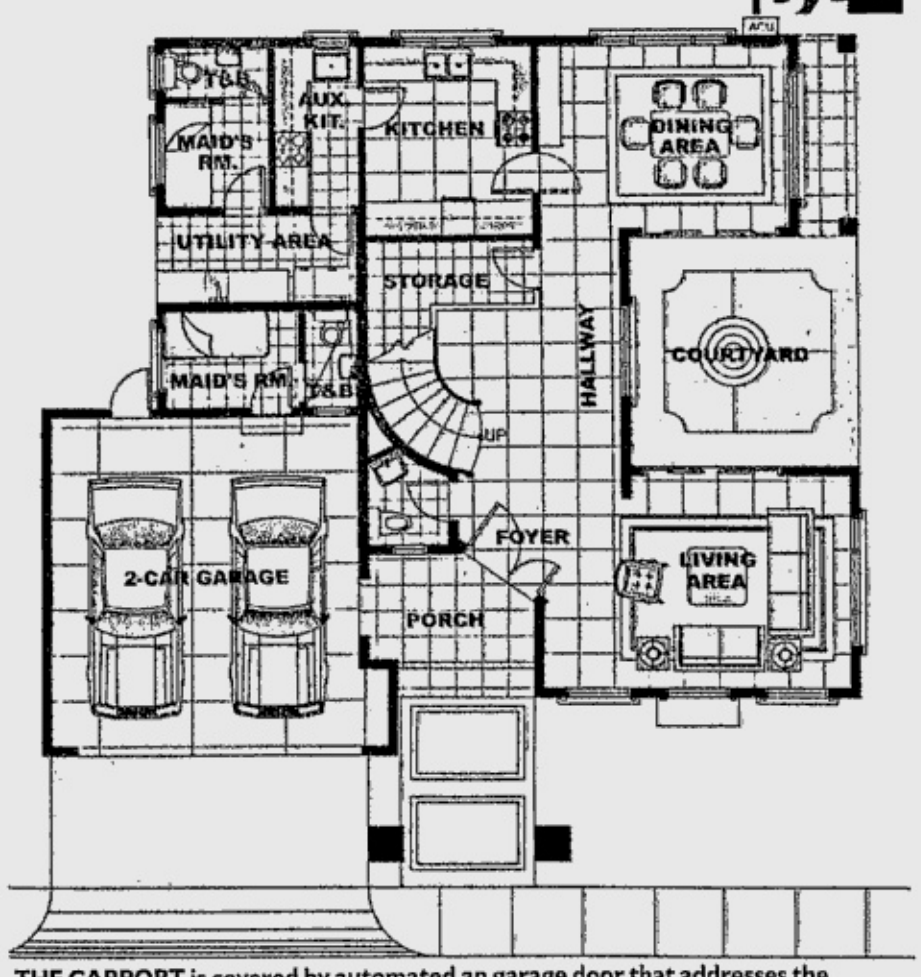
Brittany recently launched the second of the new model homes, the Raphael. The program started with a Mass, followed by house warming and cocktails with entertainment provided by a string quartet.

Named after the famous Italian artist, Raphael appeals to families with sophisticated taste.

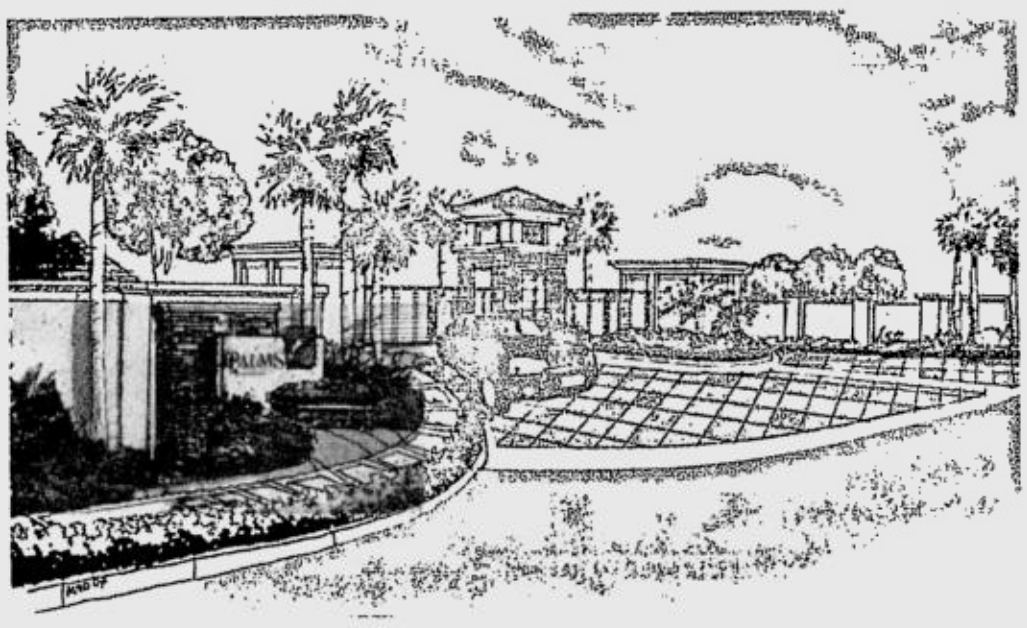
W.V. Coscolluela designed its interiors with Italy's quaint magnificence, while the architecture and design of Recio+Casas localizes the timeless splendor of Italy.

The Courtyard homes are located just a few minutes from Alabang's business center, along the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road. They range from P9 to P15 million for house and lot packages.

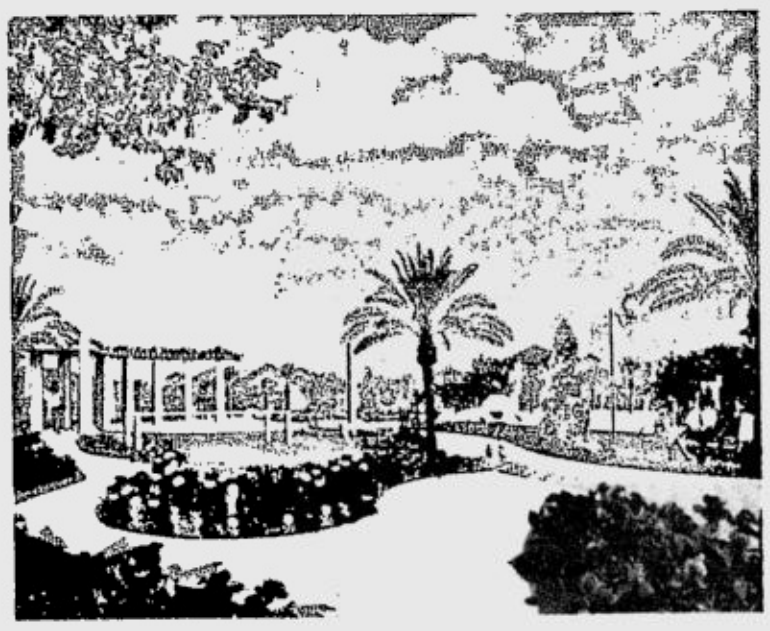
Preview of the courtyard models may be arranged by calling tel. nos. 850-6986, 850-2868 and 850-3084.



THE CARPORT is covered by automated an garage door that addresses the security concerns of the vehicles inside. The house is provided with antitermite system that assures the homeowners of worry due to termite invasion.



ENTRANCE to Palms Pointe



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PALMS POINTE

A haven within a dynamic city

"NESTLED in a peaceful alcove in Filinvest Corporate City is a haven within a dynamic city. Palms Pointe is an exclusive seven-hectare residential community composed of only 148 prime lots within a private enclave. It is mainly located in the highest point of Filinvest Corporate City and offers the privacy and exclusivity of a posh lifestyle and living.

Palms Pointe is a community suited for those who value privacy, accessibility, unique location and setting, serenity and tranquility. It is a two-minute drive to the Asian Hospital, Festival Mall and as well as South Luzon Expressway and within the vicinity are different schools such as De La Salle Zobel, Woodrose, Southridge, St. Benedict's College and Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

Ideal sanctuary

Palms Pointe enjoys an idyllic site and is located facing the newly developed Palms Country Club, the premiere private membership club in the south. It is a great refuge from the noise and pollution of most urban cities and an ideal sanctuary to commune with nature with its tree-lined avenues, pocket parks and lush green open areas.

Palms Pointe offers amenities such as sports facilities and a clubhouse to provide each homeowner quality sports, fitness and recreation close to home. In addition, a 155-meter jogging trail with exercise stations adds to every thoughtful amenity it offers to complement the luxury of leisure living amid a backdrop of complete lifestyle and recreation.

Dev't projects

Palms Pointe is a residential community development of Filinvest Alabang Inc., a subsidiary of Filinvest Development Corp. FAI prides itself with ongoing and successful projects such as 2301, Civic Place, Vivant Flats, West Parc, Sounth Station, Westgate Center and Filinvest Commercial Lots. It also established major developments such as the Festival Supermall, Northgate Cyberzone, Palms Country Club and PBCom Tower.

For inquiries please contact 842-5555 or email to palmspointe@filinvestcorpcity.com.

JOGGING path at Palms Pointe

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ongoing construction
RESIDENCIA DE Regina
Completed by Dec. 2006
HLURB License to Sell No. 11972

Luxury and Comfort at Residencia de Regina

We live in a city in chaos—bumper to bumper traffic, blaring horns, fast-paced lifestyle, stressful days at work or in school. We constantly feel the need to find an escape from them. With its comfort and privacy, the **Residencia de Regina** offers us a perfect solution.

Residencia de Regina, located at 94 Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, is the first high-rise condominium of Banff Realty and Development Corporation (Banff). Banff is the same company behind the Reginaville Subdivision series. Consistent to its mission of creating a distinctive living environment for Filipinos, Banff breaks new ground by giving a different definition to urban living through Residencia de Regina.

The building has a total of 305 residential units, 2 commercial spaces, and a penthouse. Studio and two-bedroom units are available. Each floor allows for flexibility to accommodate studio buyers who would want to come up with 1-3 bedroom units.

Residencia de Regina is a stylish yet affordable residential condominium that features a modern way of peaceful living and comfortable lifestyle. Its architectural design reflects a concept of special transition, efficiency and elegance without having to spend that much to afford the comfort and style. This makes Residencia de Regina different from other condominiums.

Banff envisions their new project to be a part of a distinct, self-contained and complete community, practically close to everything. Establishments such as supermarkets, bookstores, and restaurants are located nearby to avail of everything that you need. It is ideal for young families, urban professionals and students. It is a good place for students who seek to carry out their studies since it is conveniently located near schools such as Ateneo, UP and Miriam College. It is suitable for young professionals because its proximity to main roads and the LRT 2 stations. It is ideal for young families who want to start their lives in a peaceful and comfortable environment.

The condominium capitalizes on luxury, enhancing your way of living. Unit owners can hang out in its lap pool on a sunny day. They could enjoy the scenic view from their own unit. A Gazebo garden, on the third floor, would also be available for those who wish to have a few moments alone or spend time with family and friends. It is safe and secure with its 24-hour security command center and fire-detection system. These are just a few of the benefits that await unit owners.

Banff makes Residencia de Regina and its features affordable with a price within your reasonable means. They have different payment schemes that allow you to pay 20% over 18 months at 0% interest for studio units. The remaining 80% is payable only upon completion of the project.

Model units are available for viewing at 34 Esteban Abada St. Loyola Heights, Quezon City from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. For inquiries, you may contact 928-8888 or **banffrealty@yahoo.com**. Visit them online at **http://www.banff-realty.com**

The Land of Opportunity Down South.

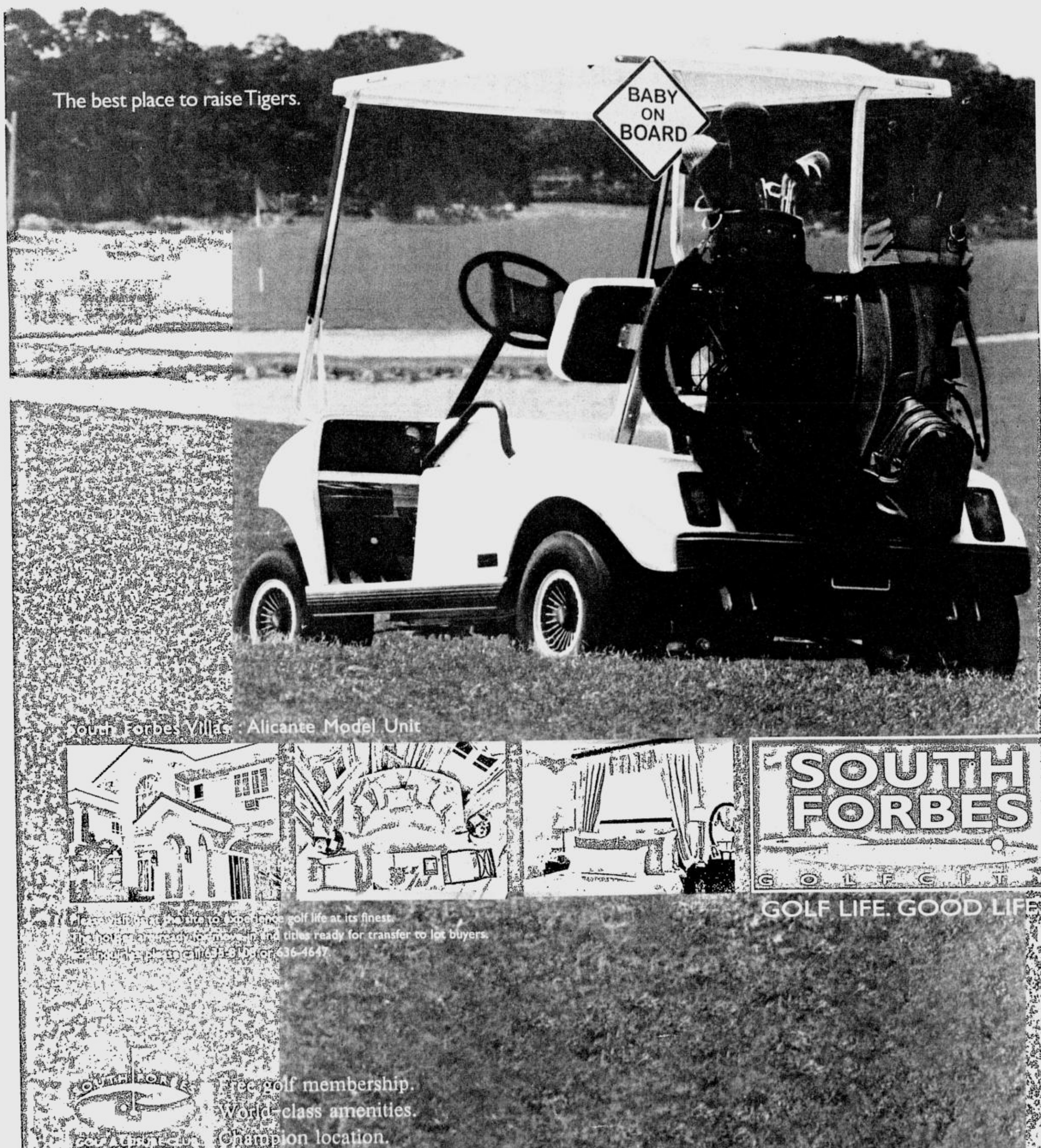
Businessmen and corporations consider a number of factors on where to set up their shops or offices. Proximity to clients is one. The availability of major infrastructure such as roads, air or sea ports, abundant electricity, and communication lines, is another. A major consideration is the presence of a continuously growing population that will require ever changing products and services.

Leading property developer Cathay Land is set to make this breakthrough concept a reality in the Philippines. Cathay Land President Jeffrey Ng explains, "The satellite city concept has been warmly embraced by residents and businesses in other Asian cities such as Beijing, Jakarta, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. Holistic and master-planned residential enclaves are interconnected with bigger enclaves that host hospitals, schools, malls, office buildings, recreation centers and modern technological parks. With less time navigating through traffic and more time devoted to enjoying the finer things in life, satellite city residents lead quality lifestyles daily."

Situated over 250 hectares of a raw, unspoiled environment, South Forbes Golf City is the first satellite city to open business opportunities for companies big and small in the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay industrial hub. The main commercial avenue will give rise to office towers. Cyberparks with the latest high-tech communications facilities will be home to call centers, I.T. companies and business process outsourcing (BPO) firms. After office hours, a stable working client base will flock to restaurants, convenience shops, and beauty cum fitness centers. Needless to say, related small and medium enterprises can take advantage of South Forbes and the vicinity's growing population. The biggest come-on for businesses, however, may be the city's constantly rejuvenated workforce. Ng asserts, "South Forbes is ideal for companies like Cathay Land which believe that people are their best assets. The City hosts various entertainment, leisure, and sports options for residents to unwind after a day's work. Landscaped parks, clean rivers, and lush greeneries are perfect to spending quality time with the family. Plus, a golf course will also rise for our residents' utmost enjoyment and to test their mental abilities."

"With inspired, contented individuals reporting for work daily, teams will perform better. Customers will be greeted warmly and served promptly. Executives and business owners can map corporate plans better after a good round of golf. With all of these people elements coming together, it will not be long before companies post outstanding results," he proudly forecasts.

For any astute businessman, South Forbes Golf City beholds a golden opportunity not to be missed. Business, home, and leisure come together in harmony in this idyllic setting. To learn more about the myriad advantages South Forbes Golf City has in store for your enterprise, please dial (02) 635-8108.



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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

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Style . Urban living . Pop culture . Entertainment . Recreation

Super! Countdown

32 days

on Heat
summer burns like Negros

manatomy

Super! spills Kitty Go's guts page I1

Deep in the minds of Binoy & Booba page D1

Tonsil hockey with IL Divo page H1

Face off with Raymond Gutierrez page C4

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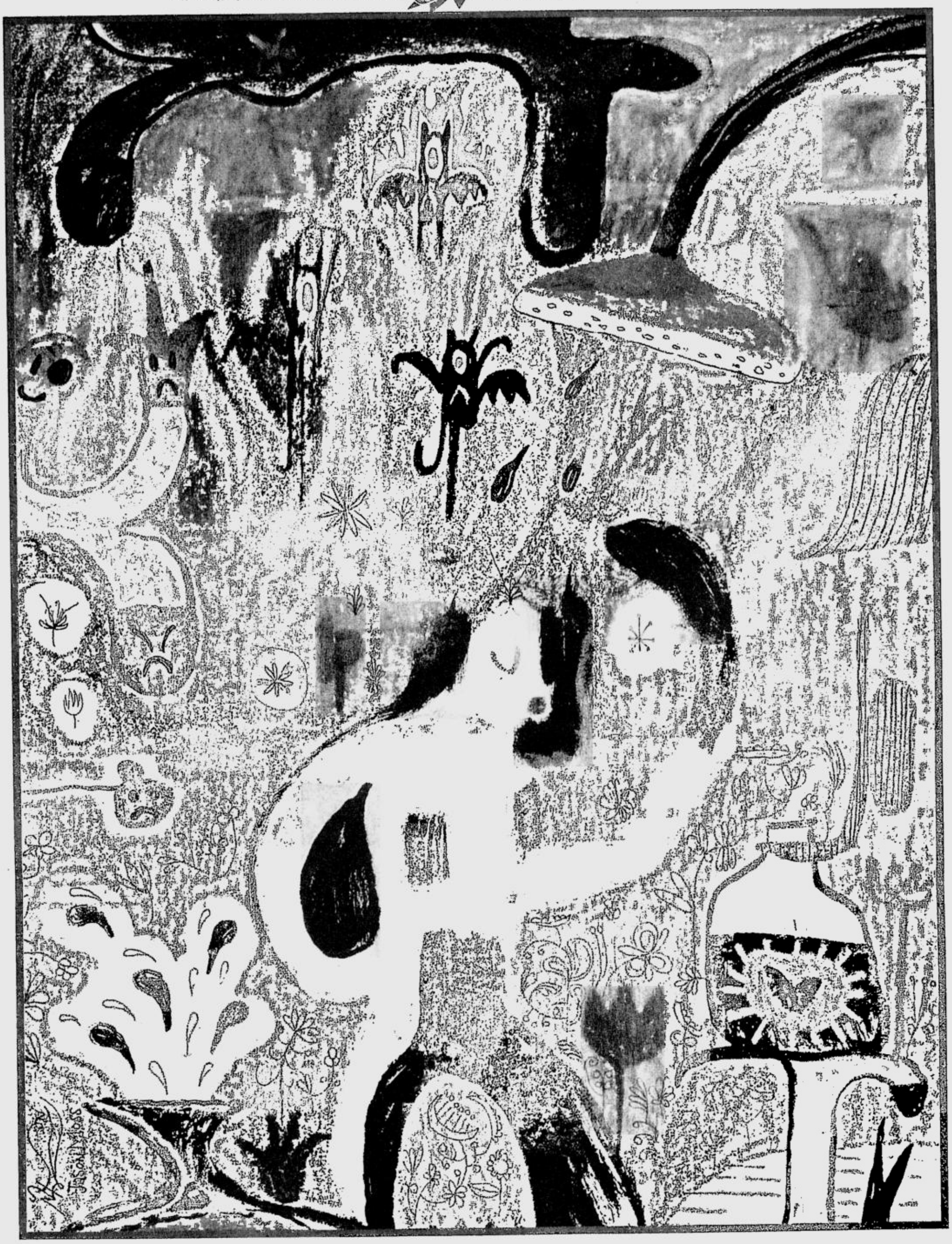


May the force be with you

Changing your "qi-nery" is simple, inexpensive and can be done by anyone, anytime

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

SAME s--t, different day. Sound familiar? Same old, same old. These are standard answers for many of my peers and even the more youthful of my friends have used the word "boring" to describe their current situation in life, work and sometimes their future's outlook. Being stuck in a rut just sucks. Artists call it a "block," executives call it a "dead-end job," students call it "practicum," and I call it a "telenovela." Maybe I meant same s--t, different network.

Same thing

The biggest challenge in wanting something different is people are not often willing to DO something different. I've read that if you keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect a different result, then you're a horse's ass (OK, I added the horse part). In a nutshell, your situation will only change when YOU change, so today let's talk about change, or at least making some changes. Tomorrow we welcome the first day of May. Not only do we enter into the second quarter of 2005, in Western hemispheres spring is in the air, and for most species of flora and fauna, life begins in the spring. In a galaxy far, far away, it also marks the opening month of a small, under-hyped sci-fi movie entitled Revenge of The Sith. (Yes, there is a connection, patience.)

Life force

Whether your Jedi Master is Yoda or Buddha, the "force" is something to be reckoned with and not taken lightly. In Chinese philosophy it is called "qi" (pronounced chi), which means the circulating life energy that is thought to be inherent in all things. In simpler terms, it's the life force. You may not be aware of it, but your surroundings, the way you live, the way you think have already caused clogging in your qi and the qi around you. If lately you feel you've been down on your luck, stuck to a routine, uncreative and unhappy, then it may be time for a change of scenery. The wonderful thing about changing your "qi-nery" is that it is simple, inexpensive and can be done by anyone, anytime.

Ready padawan? Look around you. What is the state of your house? Apartment? Bedroom? Office? Unopened mail, unwashed clothes, unread books, dried-out pens, betamax tapes (?!!!), memorabilia from the '70s and '80s that are so decrepit in appearance that they wouldn't be displayed on eBay. Wasted space is wasted energy. How you live is a reflection of how you are. Think of your body like your bedroom, how much clutter will it take in your inner interior design for you to finally do something about it? Let's get started:

Abundance

Have nothing around you that you do not know to be useful and believe to be beautiful. There exists a metaphysical law saying that if we desire more abundance in our lives, we must create space for it. How can more good come into our lives if there is no room to accommodate it?

Start to give. What may no longer be useful and beautiful to someone may be a treasure found to another. Look at your closets, bathroom counter, library, drawers, gadgets, music and video collection. Is it possible that these things you no longer need or desire could be more beneficial to and/or serve others? Even when you're cleaning and clearing out, remember not to make a mess of things.

Some rules (applicable to public officials too):

If you take it out, put it back.

If you open it; close it.

If you throw it down, pick it up.

If you take it off, hang it up.

If you really don't need it, give it to someone who does.

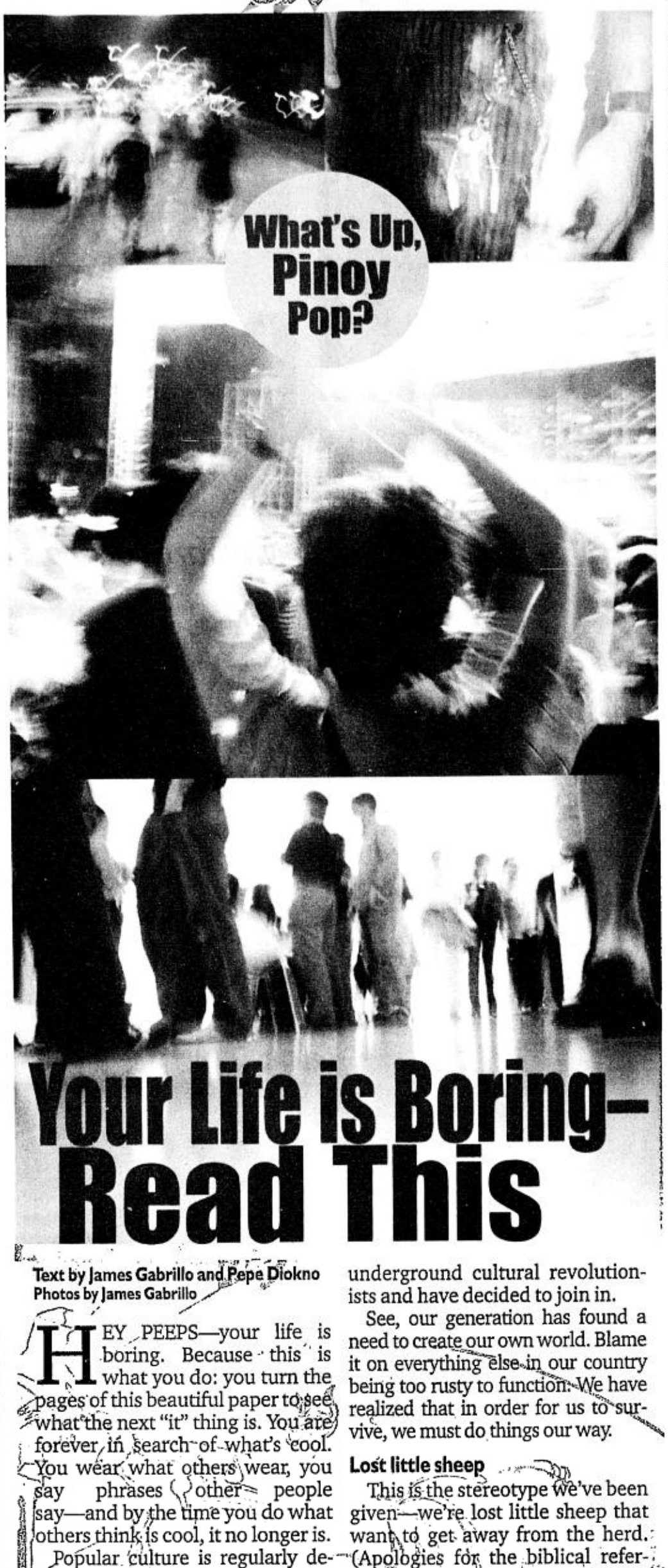
Move 27 objects. (Huh?) Literally, PICK UP and MOVE 27 objects in your home that have not been moved in over a year. No one is going to mind if the left bedside lamp is now on the right, move the books you still love from the lower shelf to the upper shelf. Arrange a series of picture frames in a different way. Maybe the dining room table would look better if it faced a window, those knickknacks, touristy souvenirs could use a reshuffle... (oh my God the Christmas lights are still up?!!!!) So what's happening now? Are you perhaps getting more creative? Maybe a little more imaginative? (How the hell am I going to explain this to my mom?) What is certainly happening during this process is that you are doing something DIFFERENT 27 times and all of a sudden you just start to FLOW.

Break your routine

When you move things around, energy transforms from potential to kinetic. Your mind expands, you break your routine and you allow the vital universal life energy to swirl inside and around you. True creation is based on intuition and not on manipulation. I will be bold enough to say that when this is done in the spirit of fun and lightness you will actually start to FEEL the positive energy released throughout your surroundings. The added bonus in doing this makeshift spring cleaning is that you may stumble upon something you once thought was lost, or forgotten. YOU. (Cue: voluminous, orchestral background music.)

Feel the force. Ready are you?

Do or do not, there is no try.



Your Life is Boring— Read This

Text by James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno
Photos by James Gabrillo

HEY PEEPS—your life is boring. Because this is what you do: you turn the pages of this beautiful paper to see what the next "it" thing is. You are forever in search of what's cool. You wear what others wear, you say phrases other people say—and by the time you do what others think is cool, it no longer is.

Popular culture is regularly defined as values that come from the different components of media and icons of style and are targeted to the common public. It is frequently changing and it forms currents and waves. Typically, bits and pieces of pop culture appeal to an extensive spectrum of the public. It is recently that a new wave of Pinoy esotericism (restricted beliefs that are arcane and mysterious and intended for an initiated few) has emerged more as a way for artists to get their thinking noticed than just an escape to being misunderstood.

Today's pop culture is not following what's cool. It isn't what you see, or wear, or want. It's what you will see, will wear, and will want. And quite a number of people have caught on. If you've noticed, our pages are filled not with run-of-the-mill personalities, but with people who have made names for themselves by being themselves, and finding their niche. If you've noticed, it no longer is about fitting molds. Avant-garde is booming in the land of Original Pancit Malabon.

Cutting edge

There has been a continuous, unstoppable emergence of artists who generate work that deliberately refutes the traditional standards of one's medium. These participants of this creative process are on the vanguard of cutting edge style—filmmakers, designers, musicians, pop artists who are, well, artistically new. The young and up-and-coming artists have seen the force and vigor of these underground cultural revolutionists and have decided to join in.

See, our generation has found a need to create our own world. Blame it on everything else in our country being too rusty to function. We have realized that in order for us to survive, we must do things our way.

Lost little sheep

This is the stereotype we've been given—we're lost little sheep that want to get away from the herd. (Apologies for the biblical reference.) We're called rebellious because we don't want to conform to the ways of the world. But who can say we're wrong when we see that nothing else is working for us?

This is not a cry of hopelessness, that there is no good left in our country and stuff. All our generation is doing is admitting that change is inevitable and essential—something older people won't dare say.

The trend is going against trend—creating a wave of its own. This, Super! readers, is the gift we give you straight from the shores of Bora. This is the Havaianas you've always wanted. This is the X-box of all X-boxes.

Radicool

We put great tension on the significance of revolutionizing in times when one feels like he or she couldn't settle with the artistic conditions surrounding him or her. Other people have proven that being radicool isn't just about thinking outside the box, but firmly believing that there is no box to begin with.

Let us discover our motivations in our beautiful country, its inhabitants, its way of life and its "vibrantness" as a whole. Then, acquire a powerful energy that understands and respects, and channel it to be able to contribute to the world of art.

Remember: The way to be cool is to find your own cool. Thank you, thank you.

Comments at chowtime@greenarcher.net and pepediokno@gmail.com

Heralding the oncoming intensity of summer, a grand-scale celebration assembled the country's ravishing elite into one youthful beach party conclave. Orchestrated by the extreme party jammers of intelligent order mobile, the audio nucleus emanated forth two hundred kilometers intensifying from the shoreline up until the asphalt road that linked kindred villas along the island's berth. Resorts line stretch between limestone jutting eastward opposite radiant crimson sunset. With party sound set high jubilant interests, engi masquerade of rhyth that pumped out R&B tronica cuts to the delight sailing patrons. Beats rode the sho the sandy north, glistening pools crystal lagoon varieties of t praving high-t ebbs. Conglon music wro symphonies sapient ears were of suff would rise guests. Th tribald we ensnaring ladies int dance. veiled in the night while in exposi slighte

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veiled in their cloak of ecstasy. the night lent sufficient darkness while incandescent light fell dim. exposing guests all but the lightest spears of moonlight

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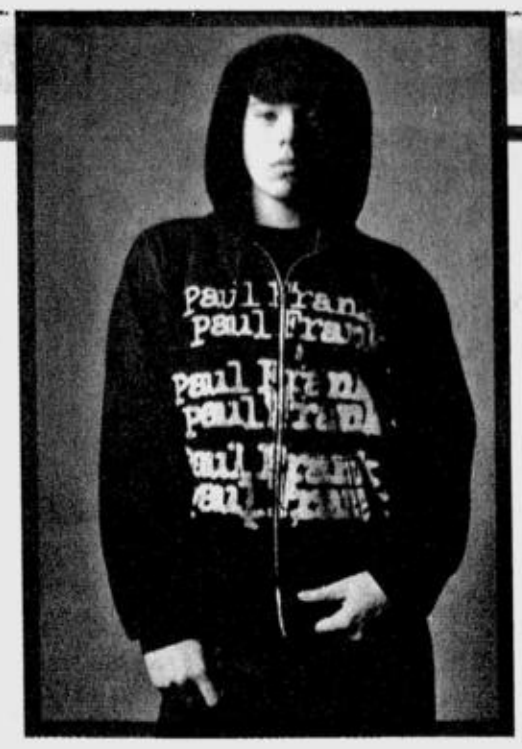


Fac with Raymo

Tim Yap

NOPE, he's not Richard. But comparison is inevitable when you are the identical twin of Mulawin, the brother of Ruffa and the son of Annabelle.

Okay, family ties aside, Raymond Gutierrez is his own person. You have to be, growing up in a show biz household filled with controversial characters. "I'm really used to it, the intrigues. In our family, we've created a forcefield with that already.

"Even if my family is in show biz, I'm really not the show biz type—I'm quite picky with what I accept. I don't want to act. I just want to host."

You see him every Sunday on SOP gigsters and Bench just got him to be the face of their time pieces. He also shot another campaign for Bench denim, this time with twin bro 'Chard.

"Raymond is actually more outgoing than Richard, he's really funny, he likes to crack jokes—I think he's really light-hearted and likes to have a good time. He likes to cheer people up," says stylist Rosario Herrera, while doing this Super! shoot with Mark Nicdao.

It used to bother him when people mistook him for Richard, which is quite often. "I got lazy at first—I'd just say hi. But now I correct them. I tell them I'm Raymond."

The main difference between him and his twin? "He plans everything out. I am more of a free spirit, an anything-goes person. I just go with the flow."

Raymond is always seen in the company of Rosario and Jon Herrera, stylist Liz Uy and girl Georgina Wilson.

"He loves to dance. I think a lot of people do not know that he is really into music—beyond what is popular," says Rosario.

For someone who has a pedigree like his, he is very grounded and down to earth. "I don't really care what people say. If I let it affect me, then that's gonna be my downfall. So I just brush it off. You can't please everybody," said the guy who grew up in LA, away from the glare of the local show biz spotlight.

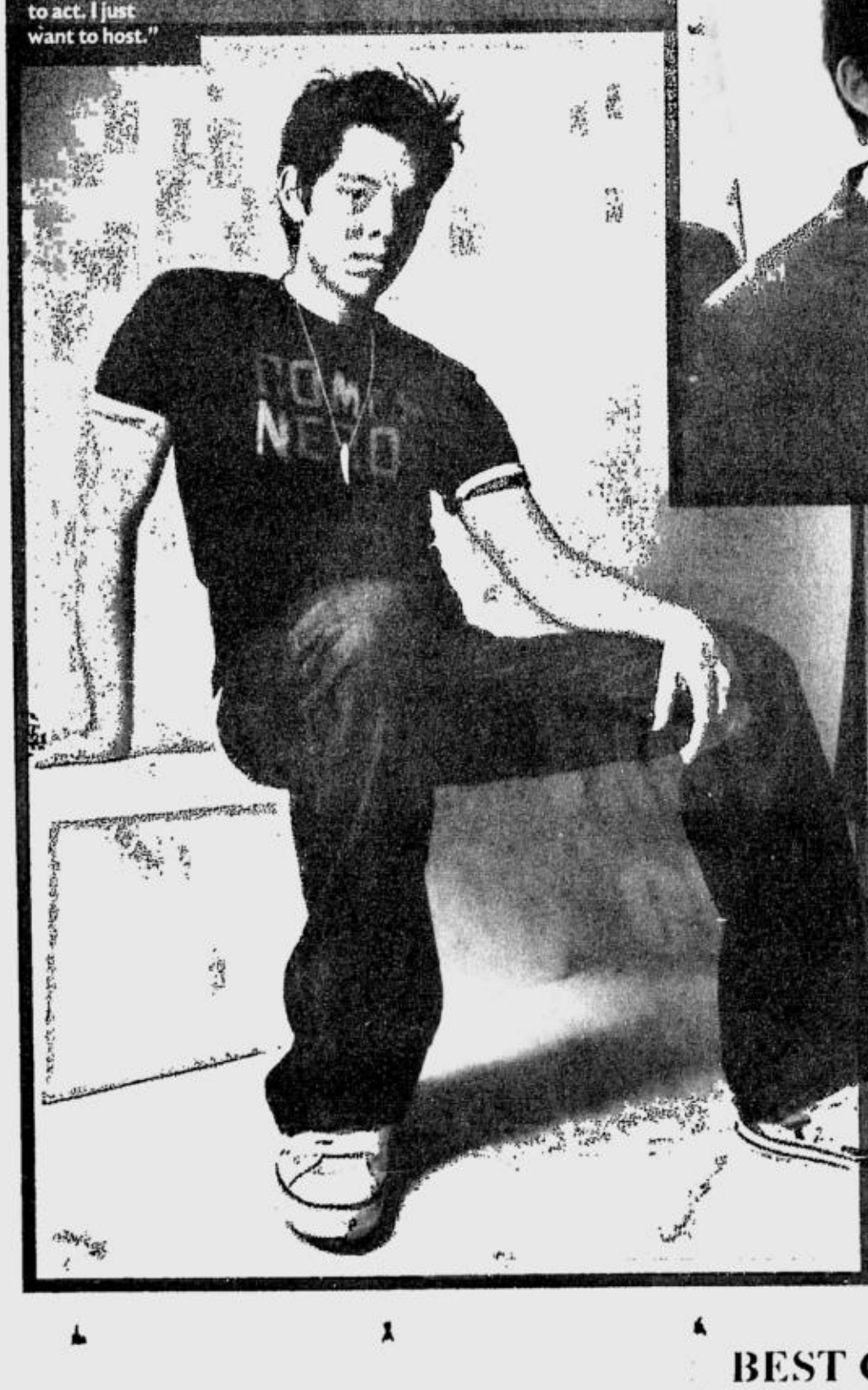
When I asked him about career directions, he answered, "I guess I'm still in the process of searching for what I really want."

For now, he's been living up his "Me years," as a precocious offspring of show biz royalty.

"I'm just enjoying my life as much as I can—enjoying Manila while I'm here. It has been one long vacation here. When I quit having fun, then maybe I'll go somewhere else."

A free spirit indeed.

"I DON'T want to act. I just want to host."



'The world would be a much better place if people wouldn't talk so much sh*t'

The thing about fame is that: You gotta take it one day at a time and make sure you don't get too caught up.

The thing I love most about what I do is that: I get to be myself, meet lots of interesting people from all walks of life, and I'm surrounded by a fun bunch... it's like hosting a party!

People might be surprised to know that: I have a thing for traveling and would like to live in different cities when I have the time and money. That'll be the day! Oh, and that one of my art projects was displayed in Rodeo Drive for a month after winning the county fair.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that: Stumbling into something can actually be rewarding. Learn to put your guard down and to just go with the flow of things... It's the surprises that are awesome. Try it.

I wish when I started off I'd been told to: Wear a name tag. Once again, I'm Raymond.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was: Leaving my friends in LA.

And what this taught me was: Make the most out of my e-mail address.

The secret to happiness is: Living life without any regrets. And Pizza.

My best-ever outfit consisted of: A pair of jeans, a hoodie, aviators and my favorite worn-out sneakers.

My Super! Saturday night consists of: A DVD marathon of LOST or hanging out in Embassy!

The soundtrack to my life would include: Anything by John Legend.

If I was the most powerful person on Earth: You don't wanna know. (Evil laugh) Just kidding :-p

The best thing about family is that: There's never a dull moment!

When I'm gone, they'll probably say: He's probably in LA.

If money were no object: I'd give it away to those who need it most. And buy a Range Rover.

When I retire, I would like: Hmmm... Haven't thought about that. Gotta live my life first. Retirement is the last thing on my mind.

The world would be a much better place if: People wouldn't talk so much sh*t.

My favorite moments are when: I'm laughing my head off with my friends.

My most embarrassing moment was when: I fell down the stairs in the main hall way of my campus with books flying in the air Klutz.

I'm saving up for: My own place... and to see the world.... and a PowerBook.... and a dope car.

My biggest indulgence is: Traveling clothes and gadgets.

My current state of mind is: In need of sushi.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be? Richard Gutierrez. Hehehe.

My 5 favorite words are: Why, Awesome Random, Dope and Okay.

I aspire to be: Me.

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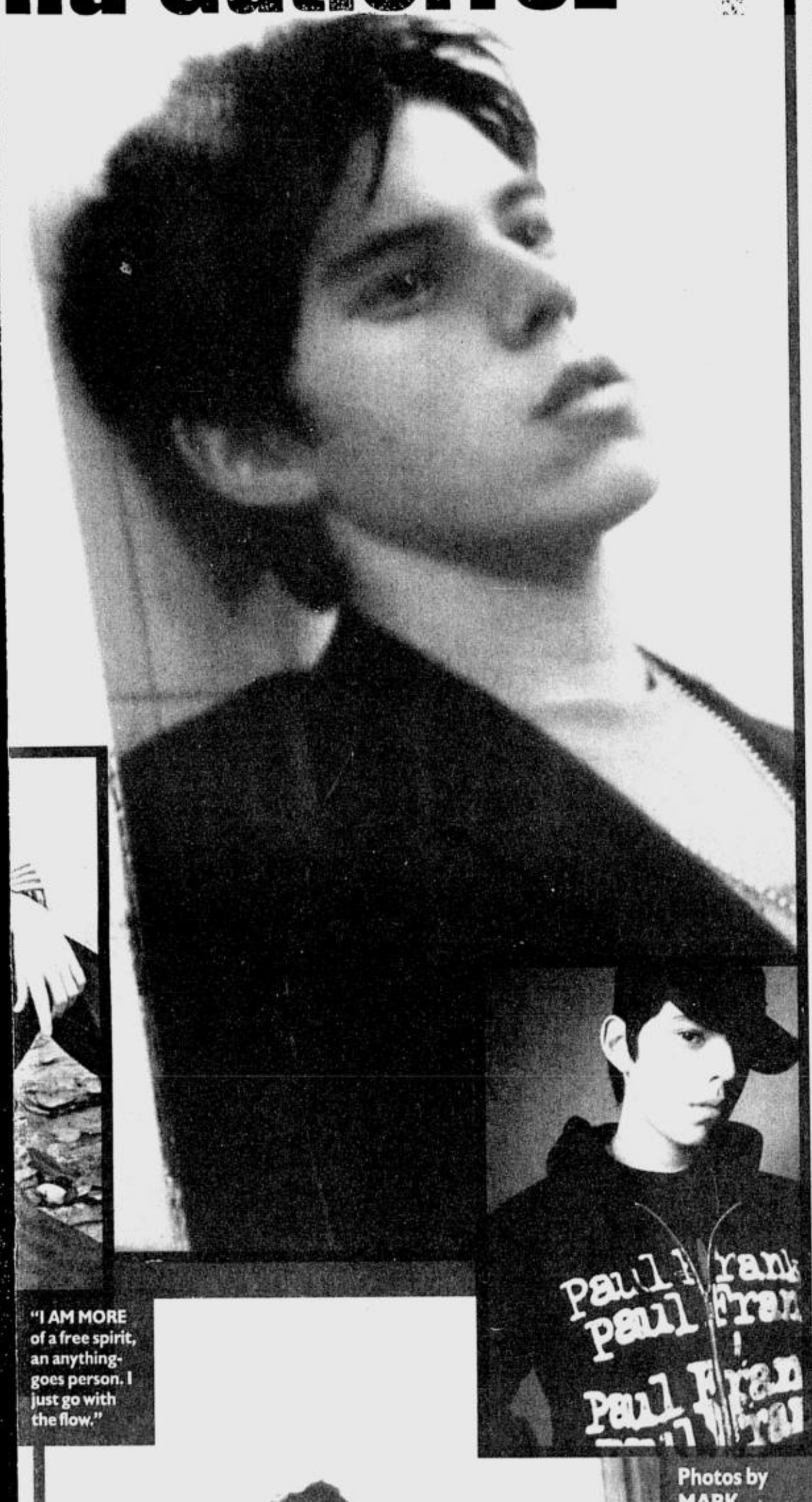
nd Gutierrez



"I AM MORE of a free spirit, an anything-goes person. I just go with the flow."

Photos by MARK NICDAO

Styling: ROSARIO HERRERA

Grooming: BEM ABELEDA of STYLE LAB

Heralding the oncoming intensity of summer, a grand-scale celebration assembled the country's ravishing elite into one youthful beach party conclave. Orchestrated by the extreme party jammers of intelligent order mobile, the audio nucleus emanated forth
two hundred kilometers intensifying from the shoreli up until the asphalt road t linked kindred villas along island's berth. Resorts line stretch between limestone jutting eastward opposit radiant crimson sunset. With party sound set hig jubilant interests, eng masquerade of rhyth that pumped out R&I tronica
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veiled in their cloak of ecstasy. the night lent sufficient darkness while incandescent light fell dim. exposing guests all but the ightest spears of moonlight

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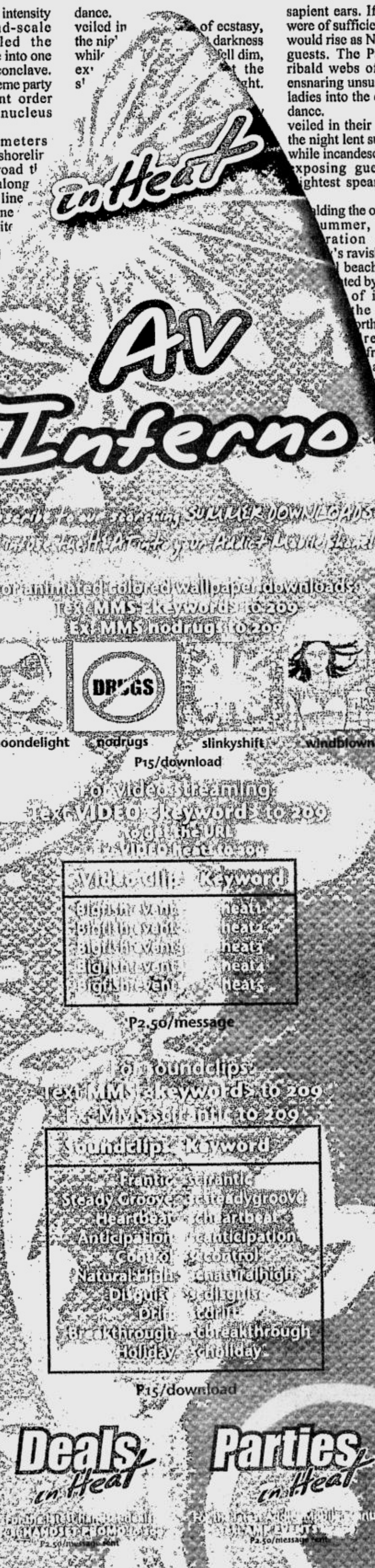

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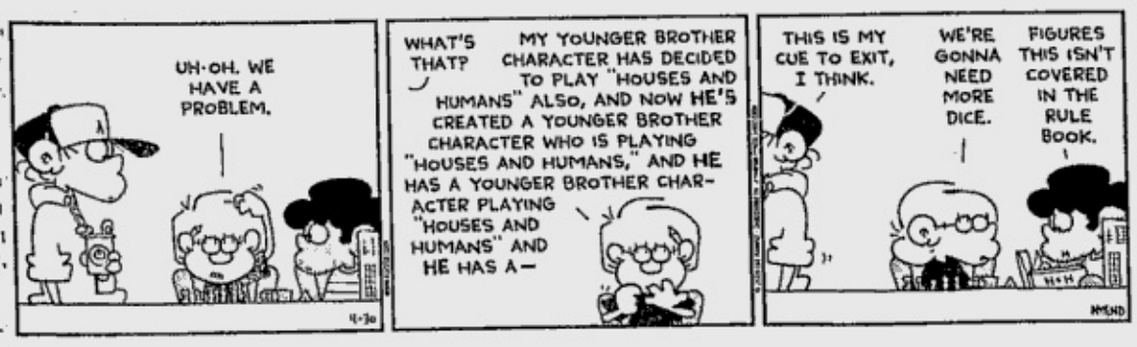
BY BILL AMEND

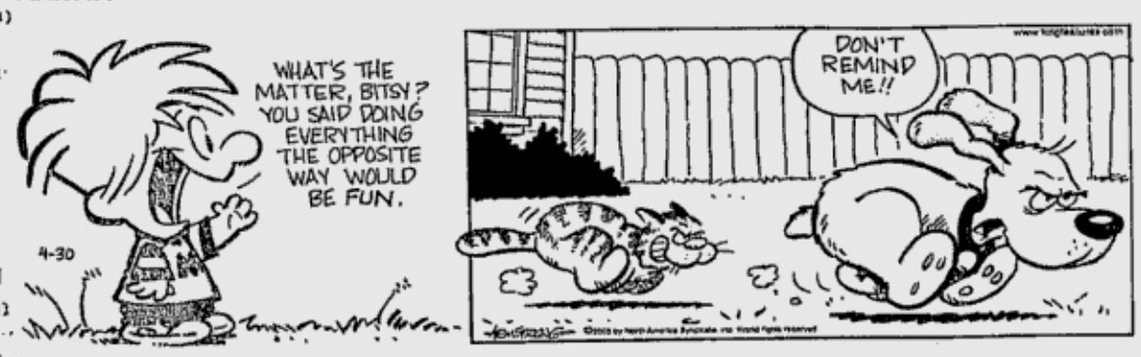


A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

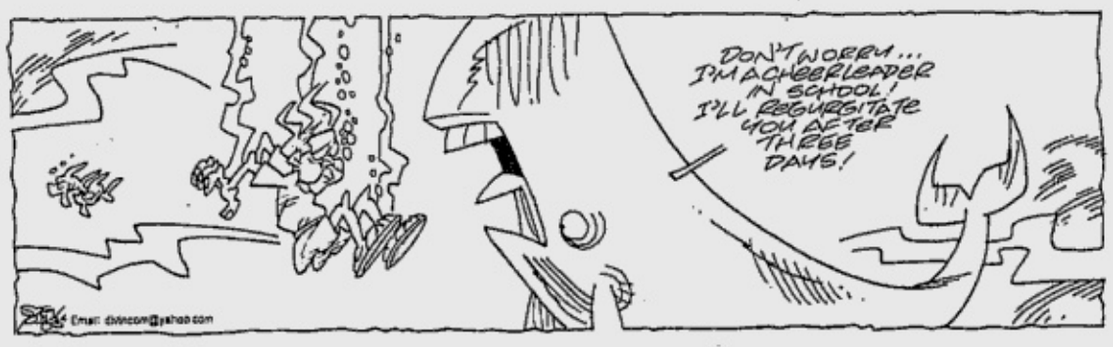
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are ambitious; yet you also want to live a life of leisure and ease. Nevertheless, you are professional about your work. You're also very protective of loved ones. At times, you're entrenched in your views because you can be stubborn. Expect increased solitude in the year ahead in order to learn something new and important. Birthdate of: Kirsten Dunst, actress; Willie Nelson, singer/songwriter; Cloris Leachman, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): If you feel irritable and uneasy in the next few weeks, this is simply due to repressed energy within you that you're not even aware of. Don't worry about this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ambition is aroused! You have special projects in mind, and you want them to be successful! Try to be your own boss now as much as possible.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might disagree with someone about how to manage jointly held resources. Privately, however, your passionate side is stimulated! Don't expect too much from partners.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The month ahead is an excellent time to formulate goals and decide how you can go after them. Talk to friends and groups to get their feedback about your ideas.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): In the month ahead, it's important to know that you're not what you think or believe; because this changes constantly as you grow. Don't try to force your opinions on others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): There is definitely some tension in your life now. It's tough to get cooperation from someone. However, you yourself find it difficult to compromise. (Just remember: It takes two to make a fight.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're gung-ho to get better organized in your personal life and also at work. You know you spend too much time worrying about what needs to be done. Now it's time for action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In the next few weeks, you want to play! You certainly want to have your own way and do what you want. Romance is playful as well.

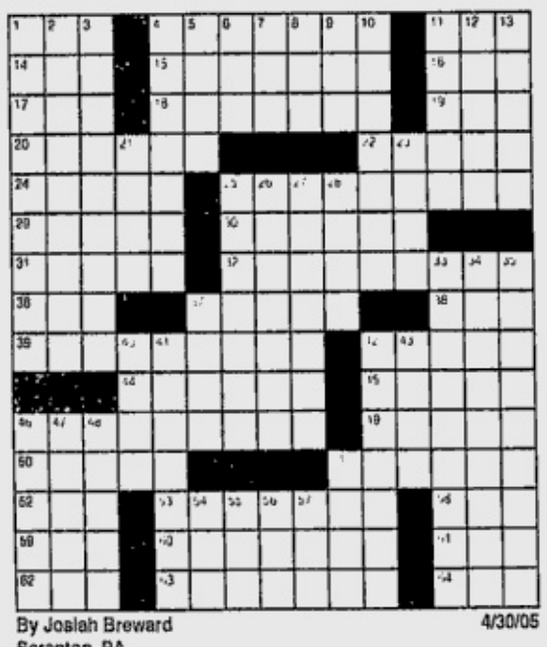
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Lots of activity is taking place at home. This could generate tension among family members. Be patient with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): In the next six weeks, the tempo of your everyday life will accelerate. Short trips and many appointments keep you hopping.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're focused on money. It's as if you equate your own worth with what you own. But you are not your bankroll or your car or your furniture. You're you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today, Mars moves into your sign, making you much more of a fighter for your rights than usual. You have a lot of energy! Try to get more physical exercise.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

4/30/05

ACROSS
1 Explode
4 Period of decline
11 Dumbstruck state
14 __ Marie Saint
15 Uncloud
16 Rapid departure
17 New Testament bk.
18 Kin of water lilies
19 RN's forte
20 Reviewer
22 Really angry
24 Ship's lowest deck
25 Mottle with veins of color
29 Animal dens
30 Titania's husband
31 Make amends
32 Subordinate
36 Decade count
37 Climber's device
38 Affirmative vote
39 Subjective writers
42 Staffs
44 Small sofa
45 "The Planets" composer
46 Woods guardians
49 Chicago stopover
50 Dickens' Heep
51 Nobel Prize winner Elie
52 Armistice Day mo.
53 Muslim
58 "__ Haw"
59 Genetic info carrier
60 Desecrate
61 South African golfer Ernie
62 Fifth note
63 Lacking guile
64 Draft org.

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2 Makes too much of
3 Park shelters
4 Overshadow
5 Voting group
6 Wager
7 19th Greek letter
8 April 15 org.
9 Expected
10 Fifth Greek letter
11 Mongolian mountains
12 Ballroom dance
13 Host
21 Ambivalent
23 Rip apart
25 Fashion designer
26 Helper in wrongdoing
27 Rests
28 British gun
33 Cornea protectors
34 Old-time info sources
35 Vulgar
37 Brad of "A River Runs Through It"
40 Out of port, but not wine
41 School for Talmudic study
42 Forks in the road, e.g.
43 Architect Mies
47 University of Maine campus
48 Adversary
51 Ingenuity
54 Titled Brit
55 Parcel of land

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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4/30/05

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN

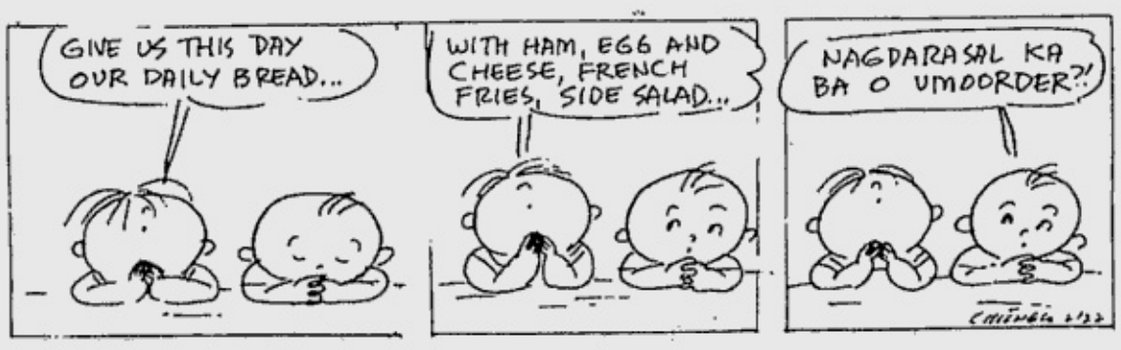
BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

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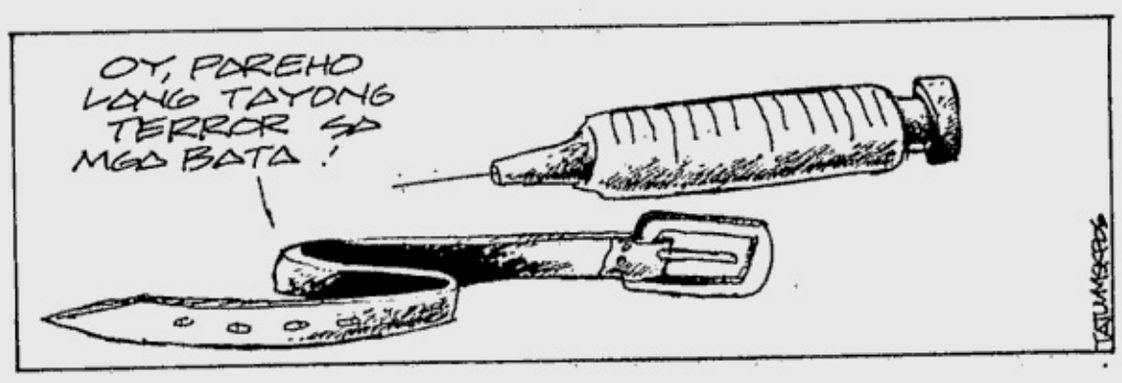

Back To Normal?

24/7 Nocturnal Navigator

Janine Cuenca-Dario

WITH the former Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger transforming into Pope Benedict XVI and officially taking over the reins as the supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church, nightlife in this city has returned to some semblance of normalcy. And by that, we mean going back to its old raucous self after what seemed like a self-imposed period of mourning due to the death of the well-loved Pope John Paul II. And since most of you are just itching to experience and explore the sights, smells and sounds of the city's nightlife once again, we definitely will oblige by helping you out with some varied choices this week.

April 30, Saturday

Monique Wilson Concert

Ms Wilson, one of the celebrated Filipinos who took on the lead role in the West End's Miss Saigon, celebrates her 25th year in theater via a concert at the Music Museum (Greenhills Shopping Center, call 896-6695 for inquiries).

Old Apologies and Over and Over

This is your last chance to catch these one-act plays penned by Niel de Mesa, the critically acclaimed director at the One Acts Theater of the Koiné Theater Foundation (2/F FORAB Building, 121 Kamuning Road, QC, call 410-4485, 0916-5251038). The two plays focus on aspects of dating that strike very close to home—the alibis we give our partners and communicating with an ex.

May 1, Sunday

Aloha Yo

Start off your evening by watching this wholesome presentation at the Activity Center of the Alabang Town Center (call 842-2782) featuring music from Disney's Lilo & Stitch. Theater stalwart Freddie Santos directs this charming production.

Circuit Asia 2005 Closing Party

Head off to a wickedly decadent evening as DJ Gomi spins dance tracks at the Fire and Mud party at this popular international club series at the World Trade Center (call 849-3440). It's the country's first time to host this prestigious gathering of club goers from around the world.

May 2, Monday

Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano

Famed restaurateur Larry Cruz's newest baby, Bollywood (Greenbelt 3), plays host to this exotic and hypnotic acoustic performance that starts at 7:30 p.m. Namaste!

May 3, Tuesday

Bloomfields at Dish

Is it The Beatles? The Beach Boys? No, it's The Bloomfields! If you want to get that liberal dose of '60s music with a 21st-century touch then this gig at Dish (ABS-CBN Compound, call 413-0603, 413-0609) is for you.

May 4, Wednesday

Photographs of Kyoto and Nara

Black and white photographs by renowned glass sculptor Ramon Orlina will be on exhibit at the Lumiere Gallery (Locsin Building, Ayala cor. Makati Avenues, Makati, call 812-2976). Don't leave without savoring the old world cuisine at this gallery, which is also a restaurant.

May 5, Thursday

Sound at Saguijo

This favorite live act winner at the recent 24/7 Nocturnal Awards will be with the Quail Quartet at Saguijo (7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati City, call 897-8629) currently getting raves for its eclectic and electric lineup of talented artists.

May 6, Friday

Emm Gryner Homecoming Tour 2005

Three-time nominee of the Juno (Canada's version of the Grammy), this Filipino-Canadian kicks off her first Philippine Tour at Gweilos (Eastwood Citywalk, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Libis, Quezon City). For inquiries, call 0917-7006128.

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Win P1 million, iPod Shuffles weekly and a Peugeot!

Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689.

SuperFerry treats nature-lovers to Bohol!

Bohol beckons! And this Summer, make it a happy trip to Bohol onboard the SuperFerry as it treats vacacionistas through Sail Away Packages!

SuperFerry Sail Away Packages promise a vacation that combines the pleasure of a SuperFerry journey and the excitement of the islands. The SuperFerry Sail Away Package to Bohol lets you enjoy the convenience of roundtrip land transfers (Pier-Hotel/Resort-Pier), and 3 days / 2 nights room accommodation with daily breakfast and a half-day Tagbilaran City tour!

Choose from premier hotels in Bohol, such as Alona Palm Beach Resort, Bohol Beach Club, Panglao Island Nature Resort, Bohol Tropics, or Bohol Island Dive Resort and immerse yourself in the island's natural beauty!

Let SuperFerry take you to Bohol and picture long, white sandy beaches, pristine waters and the famous Chocolate Hills; the perfect jump off point to the best dive spots in the Philippines; water sports, river cruising, whale and dolphin watching; or tarsier watching in its natural habitat.

This oval shaped island boast of sandy-white beaches, lush tropical forests and age-old caves all seemingly hidden from civilization and vestiges of time. Catch sight of the world-famous Tarsier, the world's smallest monkey, which can only be found in the woods around Corella.

Discover the wonder of Chocolate Hills – exactly 1,268 in number; the Chocolate Hills are between 30 and 50m high and covered in grass. At the end of the dry season the grass is quite dry and chocolate colored, hence the name.

Bask at the white sand Alona Beach found in Panglao Island, where visitors can also treat themselves by diving in its waters and whale watching.

Then, sight see in Balicasag Island, a marine sanctuary that lies about 10 km southwest of Panglao Island. It is surrounded by coral reef that offers excellent diving and snorkeling.

Or explore one of the oldest churches in the country in the town of Baclayon, the Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception, built in 1595. Baclayon is also the oldest town in Bohol.

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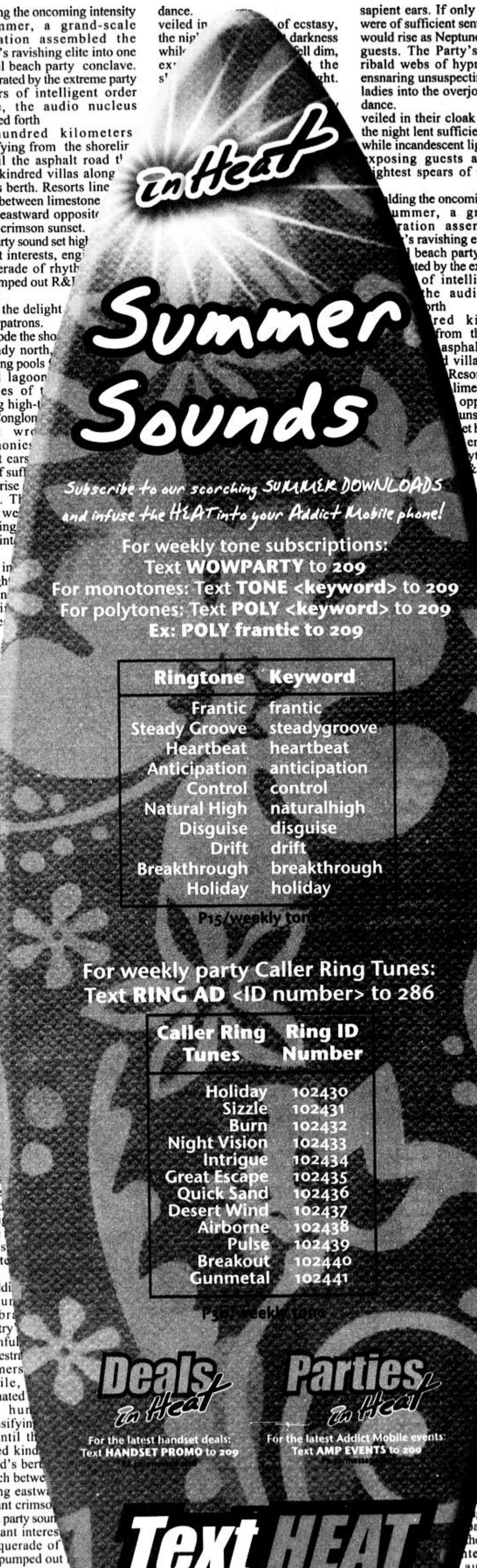

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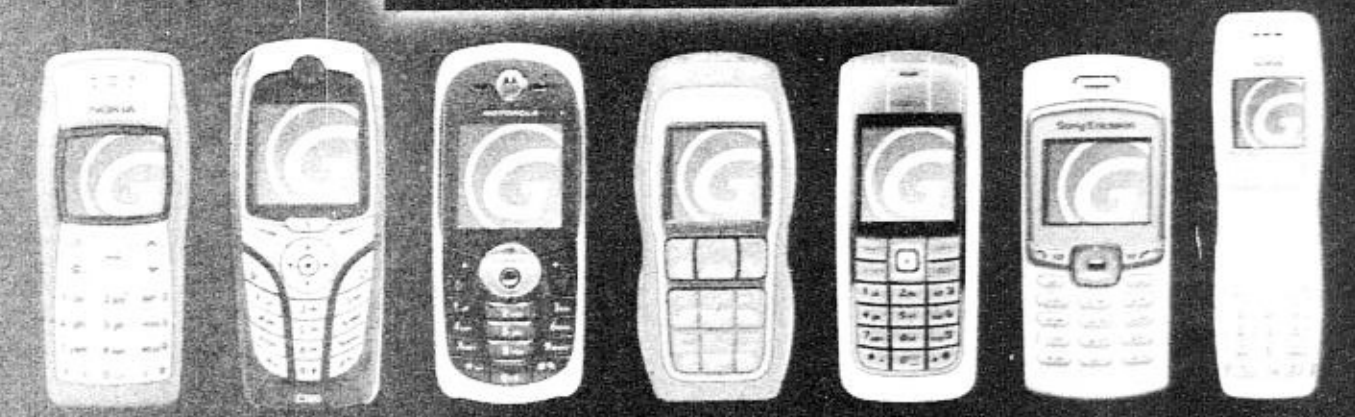

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VISA
All it takes.

We promise we did not ask them about their clothes, their love lives, and what they had for breakfast.

Text by James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno
Photos by James Gabrillo

WHEN our editor asked us to interview Robin Padilla and Rufa Mae Quinto, we were like, "Cool, it's gonna be really funny—and it'll be... light." So we get there, it's a press conference to promote their new film, "La Visa Loca" (Mark Meily directs, Ate Shawie co-produces with Tony Gloria and Jun Reyes for Unitel). They answer questions like, "Why is your hair like that?" and "Why is this the title of the film?" and "Are you sure May 25 is a good opening date?" Gossip writers. Shudder.

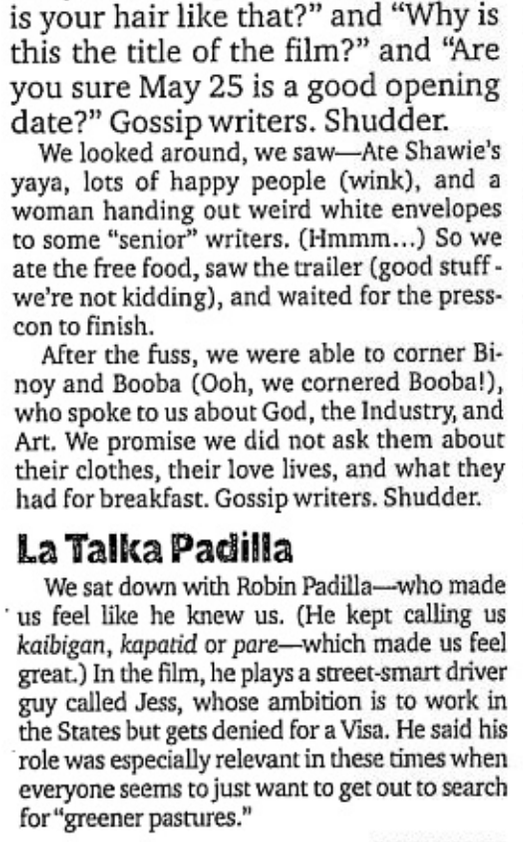
We looked around, we saw—Ate Shawie's yaya, lots of happy people (wink), and a woman handing out weird white envelopes to some "senior" writers. (Hmmm...) So we ate the free food, saw the trailer (good stuff - we're not kidding), and waited for the press-con to finish.

After the fuss, we were able to corner Binoy and Booba (Ooh, we cornered Booba!), who spoke to us about God, the Industry, and Art. We promise we did not ask them about their clothes, their love lives, and what they had for breakfast. Gossip writers. Shudder.

La Talka Padilla

We sat down with Robin Padilla—who made us feel like he knew us. (He kept calling us *kaibigan*, *kapatid* or *pare*—which made us feel great.) In the film, he plays a street-smart driver guy called Jess, whose ambition is to work in the States but gets denied for a Visa. He said his role was especially relevant in these times when everyone seems to just want to get out to search for "greener pastures."

DEEPNESS/ D2



OOH, WE cornered Booba!

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Deepness with Binoy and Booba

RUFA Mae is fun and thin...

HE THINKS there is an a... truth

From page D1

We asked him what he thought about the brain drain—he said it was fine, and he was like, he tells people to work abroad and earn there and come back here and share their... um, riches. He said you can't blame anyone for wanting to work abroad when there's just not enough opportunities here.

From what we saw in the trailer, La Visa Loca mentions some religious issues, and we asked him what his opinion was about the mission of the new Pope Benedict XVI (Ooh, Roman numerals). And he got fired up. He strongly agrees with the Pope's view that relativism (belief in changeable standards) must be abolished. He thinks there is an absolute truth that binds all religions together—and that's something we must all see. He mentioned how all religions need to understand each other, but firstly understand what it is their religion wants to convey.

One of our teachers in high school, upon hearing that we want to get into film, was like, why don't you get into a field that will *really* affect change—something that directly changes society, like law or something. Binoy had an answer that hit home.

HE KEEPS calling us *kaibigan, kapatid* or *pare*—which made us feel great.

AND HAS significant... to say

Take a politic... him speak abou... what we can do... stand. Take a fil... one will under... medium, he sai... reaches the mo... almost everythi...

Robin also ta... tance of educat... tion can change... people should n... government, he... school with his... Muslim brothers...

We also aske... ed him to the ro... the role, but the... praised Gloria... tremendous eff... tional works, h... vant the film i... say no to Sharo...

Robin Padilla...

La Booba...

After the talk... Mae Quinto—... didn't get a pres... Rufa Mae is fun... image, has signi...

She talked a... with Mark... style and h... rector tel... she trus... ored t... cause... *sosya*... *sosyo*... *ng il*... ing.

Sha... firs... Ma... fre... yea... may... char...

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The Last Ride of Genghis Khan

Man about town

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

A few weeks ago I went to my 10-year High School reunion. It was fun catching up with all my former classmates but I did notice something that really disturbed me. Almost all my old friends had already set their directions in life. Most were married with children, had steady jobs or owned their own businesses, and seemed like they knew exactly how their lives were going to turn out. I, on the other hand, have been shuttling between different jobs, have no inclination towards marriage, and have no idea where I'm going to be in 10 years. I don't feel any jealousy towards their lives, but I am worried about my own. Should I be worried?

IN THE year 1200 AD, a Mongol by the name of Temujin rose as Khan, or king in the Altaic language of Mongolia, over the various families and clans scattered throughout the regions north of the Gobi desert. By defeating the Tatars, an enemy faction to the east, Temujin ascended to the title of Universal Ruler, or Genghis Khan, at the age of 42. During his reign, he was able to compile a resume more impressive than Oprah Winfrey's—uniting the warring clans of Mongolia under a single coalition; educating his once illiterate people; creating records for posterity, protecting the basic rights of women (I'm not kidding); implementing the first known ecological notions by regulating hunting (I'm not kidding); successfully terrorizing China, a nation many times the size of Mongolia; introducing trade and cultural exchange to conquered territories; and, contrary to popular belief, encouraging leniency towards prisoners of war. By the age of 65, Genghis Khan ruled everything from the Caspian Sea to Beijing, an empire four times the size of Alexander of Macedonia (who the Mongols haughtily referred to as Alexander the Pretty Okay for a White Guy).

Now imagine his High School reunions. That must have been a blast. Old friends comparing wives and children, taking notes on who's gotten fat or bald, discussing the current exchange rate of one goat to a sack of yams. Then Temujin walks in and the whole assembly falls silent with whispers. All the guys who used to bully him during gym class scuttle away holding their penises protectively. His former prom date confiding to the girls that he had raped her with the utmost respect. His old Religion professor proudly claiming that Temujin was his favorite student even before he decided to become god himself. And to think the yearbook entry predicted that he would be the person Most Likely to Get Pencils Named After His People! His nametag declares that he is now to be addresses as Universal Ruler (with a special Mandate of Heaven).

Self-indulgence

It will always be an exercise in futility, frustration and self-indulgence when one decides to compare themselves against the achievements or stations of their fellows. Admittedly, it is human nature to measure ourselves against our immediate surroundings, and it seems the most natural gauge to do so against the people around us. Are we more beautiful? Are we smarter? Are we richer? Are we happier? This sort of social paranoia is not limited to humans, as all animals display a tendency to flaunt their tail feathers or mandible size whenever they get that mating urge or to emphasize territorial dominance. But humans have refined the practice of comparison into a rabid discipline. We're getting so good at it that we have long outgrown our basic animal impulse to excel for the purposes of reproduction or survival, and instead have mutated into beings that are simply afraid of failure. The problem is that we are often frightened by the concept of failure without even having clearly defined what success is.

This happens because we allow others to define it for us. There is a terrible show on MTV called "I Want a Famous Face" (not sure if they show this crap in the Philippines), wherein a person undergoes cosmetic surgery in order to closely resemble a celebrity idol of his or her choosing. Long have I been inured to the madness that is American television, but this something truly bizarre, even by Jerry Springer's standards. One episode had twin brothers with terrible acne and teeth like the Berlin Wall after the cold war, and they both wanted to look like Brad Pitt! *Kumusta na,* Brad? *Pogi mo rin,* Brad! Sadder still was the case of a young dancer who had surgery to further resemble Carmen Electra. Distressing because she was already quite attractive to begin with and only wanted a makeover at her boyfriend's request. Imagine these people standing before God as He welcomes the faithful to heaven, and the Creator takes a look at their plastic faces, checking His divine notes in confusion, and asking, "Who the hell are you?"

[At this point, I'd like to say that I have nothing against cosmetic surgery. My beef is with the fallacious philosophy that life is better when you look like someone else.]

Priorities

We allow others to define success and failure using the most parochial and base of principles: by what is temporary. Finances, material possession and physical beauty are all great things to have, and if you set out to achieve those goals, then that is good as well. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being rich or beautiful, or wanting to become so. But if you decide that your happiness is contingent, on a comparative scale, to how everybody else is doing, then maybe you should reassess your priorities.

So you've got classmates who are Vice Presidents in banks, spouting children like water from a broken spigot, running humanitarian missions in Zimbabwe, writing the new constitution of Iraq, dating a Brad Pitt or Carmen Electra look-alike, or have finished reading James Joyce's "Ulysses." On the other hand, you've got classmates who are in jail, in politics or show biz. It is all relative. (One day, Donald Trump's soul is going to be in the same afterlife poker room with Marcus Aurelius and Napoleon and they are going to laaauuugh at him.) The best thing is to be happy for these people if they are happy, and sad for them if they are sad. But their successes and failures, their directions and particular ambitions, should have nothing to do with your own personal satisfaction. Unless you happen to be their psychiatrist and they're paying you by the hour.

Sense of direction

Set your own standards, even in the most vague of strokes. You don't have to know what you're going to be doing, how much you're going to be making, and where your children will graduate from right away. It helps to have a general sense of direction, but it doesn't need to be specific immediately, or even when you're ten years out of High School. Perhaps it is easier for those who know right away what they want to be and how they want to go about achieving their goals, but someone who has less of a concrete idea need not be any less happy or successful.

Compare yourself to nobody. If you must have a fixed point of reference, then compare your self to your self. Forget all the beauty queens and businessmen; the most difficult person to measure up to is your ideal self, defined not by the portraits of other people, but by a reflection in the mirror. Once occasion, after I wash and shave, I catch an older me looking back at myself from the bathroom vanity, and I ask myself aloud, "Am I the person I thought I'd turn out to be? Am I better or worse? Or am I still getting there?" (When I'm hung-o... from the night before, I sometimes ans... aloud as well, but then I scare myself... really is a session in humility because... are our own toughest critics.

Be objective. Perhaps, if you've been... ing this bathroom mirror exercise... sometime and not getting any satisfact... answers, then maybe its time you critiq... your lifestyle. Not because everyone els... moving on, but because its time you ... So you don't know the answers to the... questions, like marriage, or perman... employment, or Bo Bice or Carrie Un... wood. But an attempt at narrowing... tions down often helps provide at lea... general sense of direction or destinatio...

Take your time. Parents and friends... contest this bit of advice, but I stand by i... is better to be forty and finally doing so... thing you believe in, than twenty-five ... frustrated at your haste. As the graduat... speech goes, some of the most interest... people you will meet don't know what t... want to do in life. Enjoy finding out, I say...

True success

Finally, above all else, try to be a g... person. This is the hardest of them all, m... challenging to accrue than gold or se... congress, more difficult to maintain t... power or influence, and much more v... able than all of the above combined. It's... so the only one that matters in terms of ... sonal happiness. History will record... temporal ambition of men who have spi... blood, built cities and fondled the moti... lands, granting them a sort of permane... based on fleeting human perception. ... true immortality, true success, is only ... nered by those who are good and happy... gardless of recognition or accolade.

The problem with success is that it is... garded as public property. But if you th... about it, it should be one of the most priv... things a person can own. If we stop defin... it by everybody else's standards. I th... we'll find that it becomes so much more ... isfying a process to undergo. Consequen... our achievements will not belong to a... body else, they will be immune to the c... cisms and constrains of time or social op... ion. And best of all, we will never feel ... inclination to explain or excuse ... lifestyles to others. So the next time yo... in a class reunion, and some classmates ... the need to impress the batch with th... bank account or peroxide blonde bim... feel comfort in the historical fact t... Genghis Khan, ruler of an empire t... spanned half the globe, died because he... cidentally fell off his high horse.

E-mail author at bohemiansamurai at... hoo.com

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ian to a town in Jolo and let
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as you've never seen him?

Loca

with Robin, we sat next to Rufa
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and thin, and contrary to her
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bout the experience working
Meily, the director's unique
ow she does whatever the di-
ls her to. (Ooh... that means
s the director.) She was hon-
be chosen for the film be-
it was *ibang* level— "*Parang*
na hindi masyadong
l... basta iba, hindi katulad
ang local films—*sa shoot-*
may catering." She was
wie's, Tony's and Robin's
choice for the role of
a; a *sirena* in a carnival
k show who has an 8-
-old son, whose father
or may not be Robin's
acter.
fa Mae said the selling
of the film is that the au-
will see her and Binoy
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t loves stereotypes, we
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is one? No. She pointed out
ces today are smart—most
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arquee. To get people in the-
p them in theatres, good sto-

SHE THINKS most people don't see films anymore because of who's on the marquee.

ry and good direction is needed.

So we asked her, what do you think of the selection process of the MMFF...P? They base their decisions mostly on the billing of the film (who's in it), and how marketable it can be. She said that the main consideration of everyone in the industry is to entertain, to make the audiences feel something other that disappointment when they exit the theatre. And the way to do that is through good stories, good scripts, and good production. The billing of the film doesn't matter when the story sucks—her point was that entertaining people is the goal, making money is second.

Then, a waiter hands her a menu—she's ready to eat. She ends with, "*Kung lahat iisipin na mamamatay na ang industriya, e mamamatay na nga talaga. Dapat magtulungan naman tayo at gumawa ng mga magagandang* works."

Rufa Mae like never before? Cool.

Comments at chowtime@greenarcher.net and pepediokno@gmail.com

WHILE he plays a driver who always gets denied for a visa

IN LA VISA
Loca sho
plays a sirena
in a carnival
freak show

HE IS putting up a free school with his own money for his Muslim brothers.

me&my big mouth!
by Waltz Deo

Could it be that a dreamy wedding planner would have her dream wedding after all?

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Talk about getting your life back on (the race) track!

Oh well, I guess the cutie racer deserves all the attention he's been getting from his ex-girlfriend whom, it is said, he has loved and supported all these years.
Slow and steady wins the race I say!

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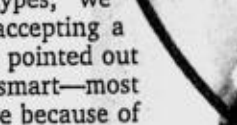

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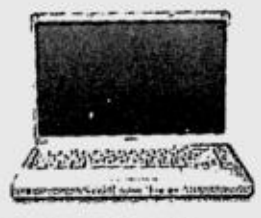

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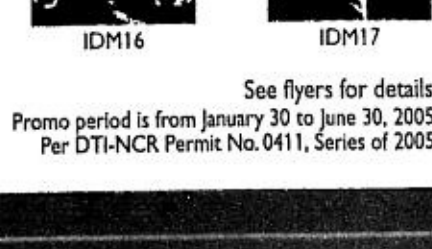

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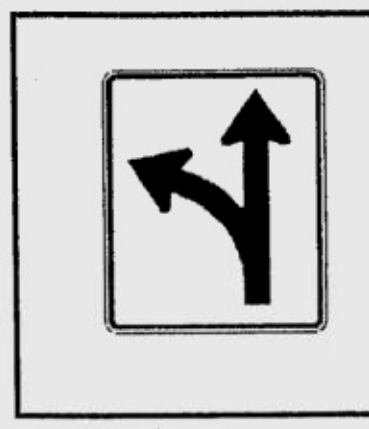
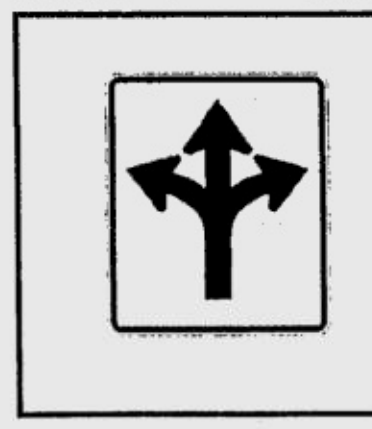
Caution: Female Driving





OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

CAR KEYS in hand, I walk down the street and waltz into a familiar stopover. The guys call out my name, with wide toothy smiles, and I wave at them with an equally sunny disposition. One guy approaches and says, *"Musta na, Tals? Tagal nang 'di tayo nagkita!"* So I shoot the crap with some of the others milling about, saying I've been busy with work, I've been going out of town on assignment a lot, even offering a few apologies for not texting back. I motion to the man behind the counter, mouthing off, "Chief! The usual!" and thereupon draw a square in the air with my thumb and index finger. It's always great to walk into a place where everybody knows your name.

Except this place is not a bar, a café, nor any favorite nocturnal watering hole where my old friends hang out. It's actually the freaking car towing station tucked somewhere within the innards of Makati City.

Within the past year alone, my poor car has been towed not once, not twice, but a blasphemous *five times* into that humble little concrete square. I walk over to the counter to be handed my "bill," a whopping amount of P1,500, the standard fare for not abiding by the ordained traffic rules and regulations (in simpler terms, it's the payment for my sheer, persistent stupidity for parking in tow away zones at odd hours.) I jovially ask the dude, *"Yung suki* discount *ko?"*

Laughs all around, then one of them actually offers to pay for part of the charge from his own pocket, fondly remembering my last visit in December when I gave the ol' gang Bonifashion T-shirts in a sudden surge of generosity (or perhaps in a subconscious attempt at snagging a bigger "discount" in the future). I begrudgingly hand over my payment, wrought with painful thoughts of the new jeans, Havaianas, DVDs or even the twelve cheeseburger Happy Meals I could have purchased with that amount. Sigh.

Wheel Deal

I really can't blame friends behind the wheel when they instinctively mutter during road snarls, "*Hay nako*, girl driver!" Unfortunately, as a female member of the driving populace, my less-than-desirable road habits contribute to this common misogynistic exclamation. Though I do know how to parallel park properly and drive at the right speed limit, somehow it's the really simple rules I can't seem to observe after all these years. Like not parking in a tow-away zone. Duh!

I should've learned by now indeed—for I first got my hands on the steering wheel when I was only 14, a couple of years shy from having a legal student's permit. I learned how to drive in a safe and isolated part of the 'burbs, on a newly paved concrete street where no wheels had yet tread. My instructor was my idealistic father, who thought that by teaching me how to drive at such a tender, post-pubescent age, I'd be careening the highways with the skill and dexterity of Shumacher by the time I got my driver's license at 18. I, on the other hand, infatuated with the refrain of a Depeche Mode song that went, "I'm taking a ride with my best friend," had too-cool visions of being behind the wheel on a summer afternoon with the windows down, inhaling the fresh breeze of the outdoors, with all my friends in the car singing "Roam" by the B-52's at the top of their clean lungs. (OK fine, that song was still *uso* at that time). Then we'd pass by good-looking boys along the road and I, powerful young female driver, would wave at them, and thereafter drive away into the sunset.

Exhausting

Alas, that pipe dream was shattered years later when I had finally been baptized by the scorching heat and the toxic fumes belching from trucks' exhaust pipes of our polluted

AF3 RACERS ready to burn rubber at the Batangas Racing Circuit

An overdose of speed

FAMILY of champions. Dad Tinton Soeprapto (center) with champion sons Moreno Soeprapto (left) and Ananda Mikola (right)

By Pam Pastor

The Asian Formula 3 races had the crowd high on excitement

THE SUN was scorching hot that Sunday and yet people packed the bleachers of the Batangas Racing Circuit to watch the first leg of the Asian Formula 3 Super Prix. They went there to fulfill their need for speed and they weren't disappointed.

AF3, which was sponsored by PLDT's lifestyle website PLDT myPad and high velocity broadband PLDT myDSL, was high in excitement and action-injected. PLDT Senior Manager-Marketing Media Dodie Lucas, a proponent of speed, was there to witness the excitement.

Indonesian brothers Ananda Mikola (#12) of the Fastron Racing With Threebond team and Moreno Soeprapto (#7) of the Denso Hanjin JF3 team dominated the first two legs of this 12-legged competition.

The races, which were webcast live on PLDT myPad, showed the determined racers revving up their engines in the desire to achieve victory.

"I had a good start and held on it. I know he (Christian Jones of Christian Jones Motorsports) was just waiting for me to make a mistake before he makes his move. I know he's better than me in the curves but I made up for it in the fast lanes," said Mikola, who placed seventh overall in the 2004 season.

Irish racer John O'Hara (#36) of the Fujitsu Ten Toyota Team Tom's bagged third place in the first leg.

LUIS Lucas (second from left) with dad PLDT Senior Manager-Marketing Media Dodie Lucas, Richard Joson, Melchor Osano with Af3 girls

The second leg was almost deja vu, with Mikola taking the lead early and leaving Jones behind after 15 laps of the race. In the second leg, the third place was captured by James Winslow (#17) of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO team.

Soeprapto, who is the younger son of famous circuit racer, Tinton Soeprapto, was victorious in the Promotions class, besting Irishman Greg Murphy (#28) of Ambi Pur Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia and Filipino Enzo Pastor (#11) of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO in the first round.

A number of Filipinos raced at the AF3s first two legs. Enzo Pastor, who showed great promise, is putting his focus on getting more points. "With the car that I have right now, I feel lucky that I finished well. Hopefully in the next leg in China next month my new engine will arrive and I will have a better finish. But now, I just want to earn my points," said Pastor whose father, Tom Pastor, was national Supercar champion in 1999.

Meanwhile, Soeprapto says he will give acting a shot when he returns to Indonesia. A racer in show business? Now that would make for an interesting webcast.

If you want to get a dose of the action, log on and subscribe to www.pldtmypad.com to watch video clip highlights of the races.

Fulfilling the need for speed

WINNERS OF THE FIRST 2 LEGS OF AF3

Moreno Soeprapto

Team: Speedtech Asia
Car number: 11
Car and Engine: Dallara 398 TOM'S
Nationality: Indonesian
Birthdate: 14 November 1982
Birthplace: Jakarta, Indonesia
Country of residence: Indonesia
Sponsors: Top 1, Telkomsel
First race: 1994
First racing vehicle: kart
Career Achievements
2004
- Formula BMW Asia, Winner Shanghai GP
2003
- Formula Renault UK - Winter Series
- ZIP Formula - 4th MSA British Zip Formula Championship
- Vice Champion - Jordan Cup
- Junior Rotax Max UK - PFI Winter Series Champion
2002
- Junior Rotax Max UK - 1st British National ABkC Super One Champion
- Vice Champion, National Champions of the Future
- Gold Cup Champion
- 3rd National ABkC "O" Plate Championship
2001
- Formula Junior KTM - 6th British National ABkC Super One Championship
2000
- Formula Junior - 1st British National ABkC Super One Championship 3rd Champions of the Future
1999
- Formula Cadet - 5th MSA British Championship
- 9h ABkC Super One Championship
- Member of the Winning English International Team
1998
- Formula Cadet - 12th MSA British Championship
- CKRC Club Champion
- CKRC "O" Plate Champion
- WLKC "O" Plate Champion
1997
- Formula Cadet - Competed in Super One Championship
- CKRC Vice Club Champion
1996
- Formula Cadet - Began Kart Racing Age 8
- 5 Novice Race win

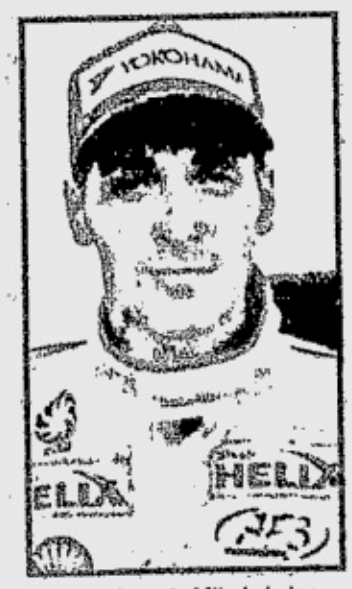
Ananda Mikola

Team: Three Bond Racing
Car number: 12
Car and Enigne: Dallara F304 Nissan
Nationality: Indonesian
Birthdate: 27 April 1980
Country of residence: Indonesia
First Race: 1993
Favorite road car: BMW and Porsche
Favorite track: Spa and Monza
Racing Heroes: Ayrton Senna
Hobbies: Football
Racing Ambitions: To win the AF3 Series
Sponsors: Pertamina Fastron
Career Achievements
2004 - Part AF3 Season, 3 wins from 4 races
2003 - World Series Lights
2001 - Euro Formula 3000, Central European F3
2000 - Euro Formula 3000
1999 - Italian Formula 3000
1998 - Italian Formula 3
1997 - Italian Formula 3
1996 - Formula Asia Champion
1995 - Indonesian Group N Champion
1994 - Indonesian Group N, Indonesian Karting Champion
1993 - Indonesian Group N

Christian Jones

Team: Christian Jones Motorsport
Car number: 1
Car and Engine: Dallara F301 Neil Brown Mugen
Nationality: Australian
Birthdate: 27 September 1979
Country of residence: Australia
First Race: 1993
Favorite road car: Citroen 2CV
Favorite track: Batangas Race Circuit
Racing Heroes: Alan Jones
Hobbies: Mountain Biking, Karting, Jet Ski, Snowboarding
Racing Ambitions: Win Asian F3 Series
Sponsors: Hanjin, MOF
Career Achievements
2004 - Asian Formula 3, Champion
2003 - Australian F3 Championship, 4th Overall
2002 - Australian GT Class Nations Cup Ferrari 360
2002 - 4th Palmer Audi winter Series Championship
2001 - Australia Formula Ford Championship, 2nd Overall
1993 - 1999 - Karts, State and National Champion

James Winslow



Team: Shell Helix PCSO
Car number: 10
Car and Engine: Dallara F301/ Torri Toyota
Nationality: British
Country of residence: UK
First Race: 1991, Cadet Kart
Racing ambitions: To win 2005 AF3 Series
Sponsors: Shell Helix, PCSO
Career Achievements
2004 - F3 (ARP), 2nd Overall
2003 - Formula Palmer Audi, Test Driver
2002 - Formula Ford 2000 Champion
2001 - GT (Lotus) 3rd
2000 - Formula Ford (British) 2nd
1999 - Formula Ford (BRDC) Champion
1991 - 1998 - Karts, 7 Championships

Photos by JR Victorio
JRA01 & 02 - Over-all Champions, Chirtian Jones, Ananda Mikola, James Winslow during the press conference
JRA03 & 04 - James Winslow
JRA05 & 06 - Christian Jones
JRA07 - Ananda Mikola being congratulated by Filipino racer Dado Pena
JRA 08 & 09 - Ananda Mikola
JRA 10 & 11 - Moreno Soeprapto
JRA 12 - Moreno Soeprapto with the author
JRA 13 - Moreno Soeprapto signing autographs

People are nicer when you have a nice car

And other lessons learned from the Volvo S60 T5 2005

By Pam Pastor

THE TIMING couldn't have been more perfect. My boyfriend's car was still with the mechanic, I had been hogging my grandparents' car and I was getting tired of being a magnet for strange cab drivers.

Enter the Volvo S60 T5 2005 in its sleek and shining glory.

Now I'm not big on cars. Give me a comfortable seat and a working air-conditioner and I'm all set. No wonder the Volvo blew me away.

With barely four days to spend with the Volvo, who we christened King Neptune (yeah, after the king in Spongebob the movie), we knew we had to make the most out of our time together. After two stupid phonecalls to Loi Concepcion, Volvo's Corporate Communications Supervisor ("Uhh, Loi, how do we open the trunk?"), we were happily cruising down the streets of Makati.

And there was good reason to be happy.

The Volvo S60 T5 2005 comes with a 2.4-liter five-cylinder High Pressure Turbo Engine with Intercooler that produces 260 horsepower at 5200 rpm. It's a five-speed automatic driver adaptive with "Geartronic" transmission. Standard equipment include air conditioning with Interior Air Quality System, Power Windows, illuminated vanity mirrors, a trunk light, power-folding headrests, audio and cruise controls in the steering wheel, retractable power mirror with puddle lights, Integrated GSM phone, Park Assist System, Cabin Pollen Filter, B-pillar ventilation for second-row passenger, trip computer, auto-dim rearview mirror—and that's not all. Safety and security features include collapsable steering column, driver and front passenger airbags, Side Impact Protection System, Side Impact Airbags, Whiplash Protection Seating System, dynamic stability and traction control, Volvo guard alarm with battery backup and Immobilizer, keyless entry, auto door unlock in crash situation, 4-channel Anti-Lock Braking System with Electronic Brake Distribution.

If that's as Greek to you as it is to me, read on..

Notes from the driver's seat

King Neptune is a powerful car which allows for effortless overtaking. No vibrations were felt, even while driving at high speed.

The Park Assist System is an ingenius invention. Because the car is big-bodied, it offers excellent aid in parking even at tight spaces.

The Geartronic feature allows you to shift from automatic to manual, depending on what you are more comfortable with.

With all-power features, including power seats, any driver is sure to feel spoiled.

The side mirrors are retractable at the push of a button making passing through narrow streets possible. And when you feel that the backseat's headrests are blocking your rearview, you can fold it with another push of a button.

The Integrated GSM phone can be answered using your steering wheel. The speaker is located at the back of your headrest, which makes for safer driving. You can also control the audio—skip tracks and change the volume to your liking—using the buttons on the steering wheel.

The digital display on the front panel allows you to monitor your gas mileage. That's also where you can read incoming text messages and dial your friends' numbers.

Notes from the passenger's seat

King Neptune offers a comfortable ride. The seats, which are plush and leather-covered, feels more like a La-Z-Boy than a car seat. It's so comfortable you'd have to fight off sleep in traffic. There is enough leg room for your comfort. Even our 6-foot tall friend, who normally complains about leg space, found great comfort in King Neptune.

The trunk is unbelievably spacious, which makes it perfect for heavy shopping days and trips to and from the airport.

The illuminated vanity mirrors are excellent for taking Mirror Project images.

The car's solid built makes you feel protected, not a big surprise because Volvo has been voted as one of the world's safest cars.

The High Performance AM/FM stereo with 6 In-Dash CD was a great gift. No need to stop the car anymore to change discs, switching from Alicia Keys to Sublime is just one press away.

The seatbelt alarm goes off when I forget to strap myself in and it doesn't stop beeping and flashing until I do. It's almost like being on a plane minus all the packing.

Who wouldn't love the Integrated GSM Phone? It was such a blast to use it to send silly messages to friends. ("Hey, we're using the car to text you.")

Plus, King Neptune is a real looker. Heads turn when he hits the streets.

Add to that the realization that people are suddenly nicer to you when your car is nicer.

Sadly, the time to say goodbye to King Neptune came soon.

After dropping off the car at Volvo's headquarters, we ended up getting stuck with one of the strangest cab drivers ever—an old man who thinks he can start a career in comedy. ("Anong isda ang naglalaba?" "Labahita." "Anong gulay ang naglalaba?" "Labanos." I swear, I wanted to jump out of the moving cab.)

Goodbye, King Neptune. It was time to say hello to my reality again—a world where mechanics take too long to work on your car, strange cab drivers abound and generous grandparents come to the rescue of their poor car-less granddaughters.

For inquiries, visit Viking Cars, Incorporated at 2272 Chino Roces Avenue Makati City or call 8936621 and 8936622.

The drive to school never felt this good

By Jojo Nones
Photos by Raul Roa

WHAT does it mean to go to school?

If you're in a hurry, don't ever make the mistake of asking Lex Ledesma this question. He can go on and on, and trust me, he will go on. But the funny thing is, you are never bored by his ideals, you are never put off by his liberal inclinations. Instead, you find before you a young man whose passion about unorthodox education and thirst for bold entrepreneurship is remarkable, riveting, amazing.

A graduate of Stanford University with a Masters in Engineering, Lex is the Executive Director and Admissions Director of a hip, top-notch, new business school that prides itself in simply being different. Located on the 28th floor of the Yuchengco Tower of the RCBC Plaza in Makati, The Centre for International Education (CIE)—the only International Associate Partner of the University of Cambridge in the Philippines—is the most fun anyone can have while getting a superior college education. In this Juilliard and Rushmore of sorts for biz whiz kids, students and teachers are not just opposite ends of the same pole, but they are congruent parts of one pole-unified in a quest to produce graduates that will succeed in business and in the real world.

"CHOOSE a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life."

THE ONLY way students can appreciate what is being taught in class is if they can apply this.

The force behind CIE

"At CIE, we believe that students are no mere empty vessels," Lex explains. "We've done away with the psyche that teachers are always right and students should always accept what the teachers give them. We believe that intelligence is not just measured by grades or proficiencies in subjects. We don't require memorization. You are intelligent if you can find a level of success both in school and out of school." The force behind this modern, high-tech campus is a powerhouse team of widely-acknowledged educators and business people. There's Professor Nelia Cruz-Sarcol, founder of the CIE vision and its first branch in CEBU in 1985; Professor Andy Ferreria, one of the founding members of the Asian Institute of Management Asian Center for Entrepreneurship; husband-and-wife tandem Francisco and Mary Anne Colayco, he the author of the National Bookstore #1 bestseller Wealth Within Your Reach and she a top executive of the powerful Ayala Group of Companies for 20 years; and brother-sister tandem Lex and Cheese Ledesma, both dynamic entrepreneurs with diplomas from Stanford (Cheese has an MBA) and robust business like The Big Chill (a chain of 20 fresh fruit shake stores), Karaoke King (a set of 15 mall-based mini-recording studios), and Nami (a luxury resort in Boracay that is set to expand to another location soon).

Crazy and shrewd

Lex claims CIE is the first school to instill in students the belief that any passion can develop into a good business idea no matter how big or small those passions are. "We bring to life the Confucian saying, 'Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.' CIE presents students with options, options that help them discover their passions, options that help them put up businesses around their passions. This practice has helped give CIE students renewed interest in school and in life."

At CIE (www.cie.edu, 632 753-2828), learning is practical, not theoretical. Every week, they bring in a successful entrepreneur to share his life story so the students learn from personal experience, not just from a textbook.

"AT CIE, we believe that students are no mere empty vessels," Lex Ledesma explains

According to Lex, CIE believes that the only way students can appreciate what is being taught in class is if they can apply this immediately to their own business. Students are required to start businesses only three months after entering the school instead of three to four years later as a thesis. Super! got the chance to meet some of CIE's brilliant and daring student-entrepreneurs and we were blown away by their zany, crazy-but definitely shrewd-business ideas.

The Centre for International Education, Academy for Leadership and Continuing Education is located at the 28th floor of the Yuchengco Tower of the RCBC Plaza on Ayala Ave., Makati City. For inquiries regarding their programs and trimester schedules, get in touch with Admissions Director Lex Ledesma through landline 753-2828 or mobile 0917-5207962 or email aledesma@stanfordalumni.org. Email the author at jojonones@yahoo.com.

Watch out for next week's Super! feature on CIE students who have put up their own successful business ventures.

Caution: Female Driving

From page E1

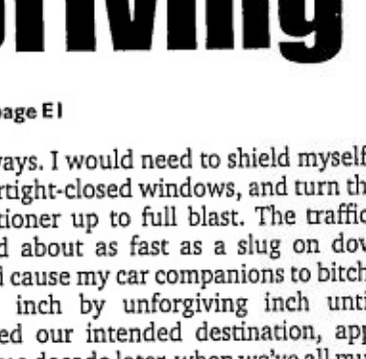
highways. I would need to shield myself with the airtight-closed windows, and turn the air-conditioner up to full blast. The traffic that moved about as fast as a slug on downers would cause my car companions to bitch endlessly, inch by unforgiving inch until we reached our intended destination, approximately a decade later, when we've all mutated into another species. Many times, I'd have to deal with the occasional perv behind the wheel, the honk-happy heathen, the retards overtaking on the wrong side and cutting me off without shame, or the morons who would jaywalk anywhere as long as it's *not* on the painted designated area. As envisioned in my younger days, I would wave at them...with my middle finger. And they would drive off into the...erm...hazy sunset, leaving me ensconced in a charcoal-colored cloud of smoke.

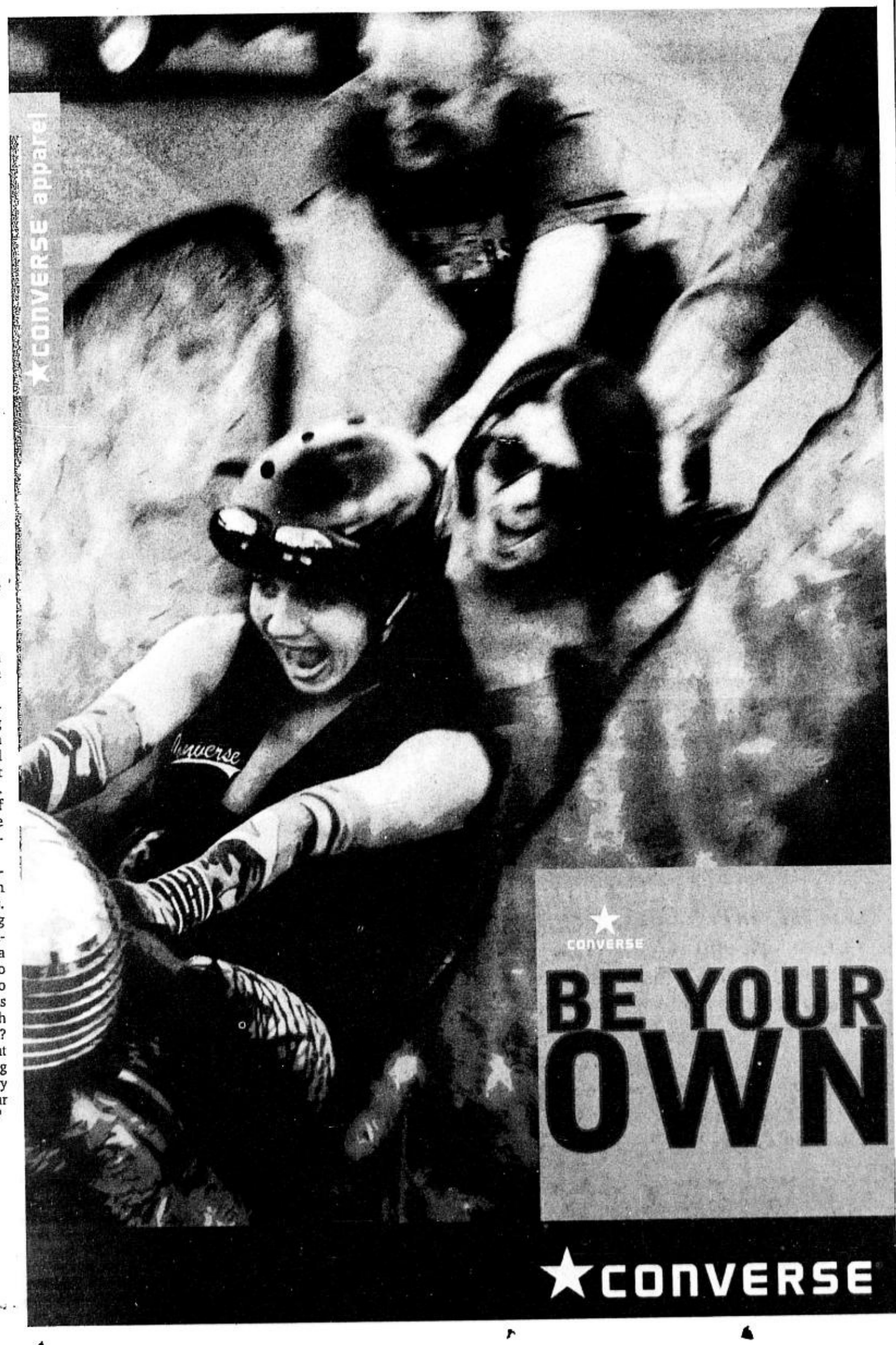
Grrrrl driver

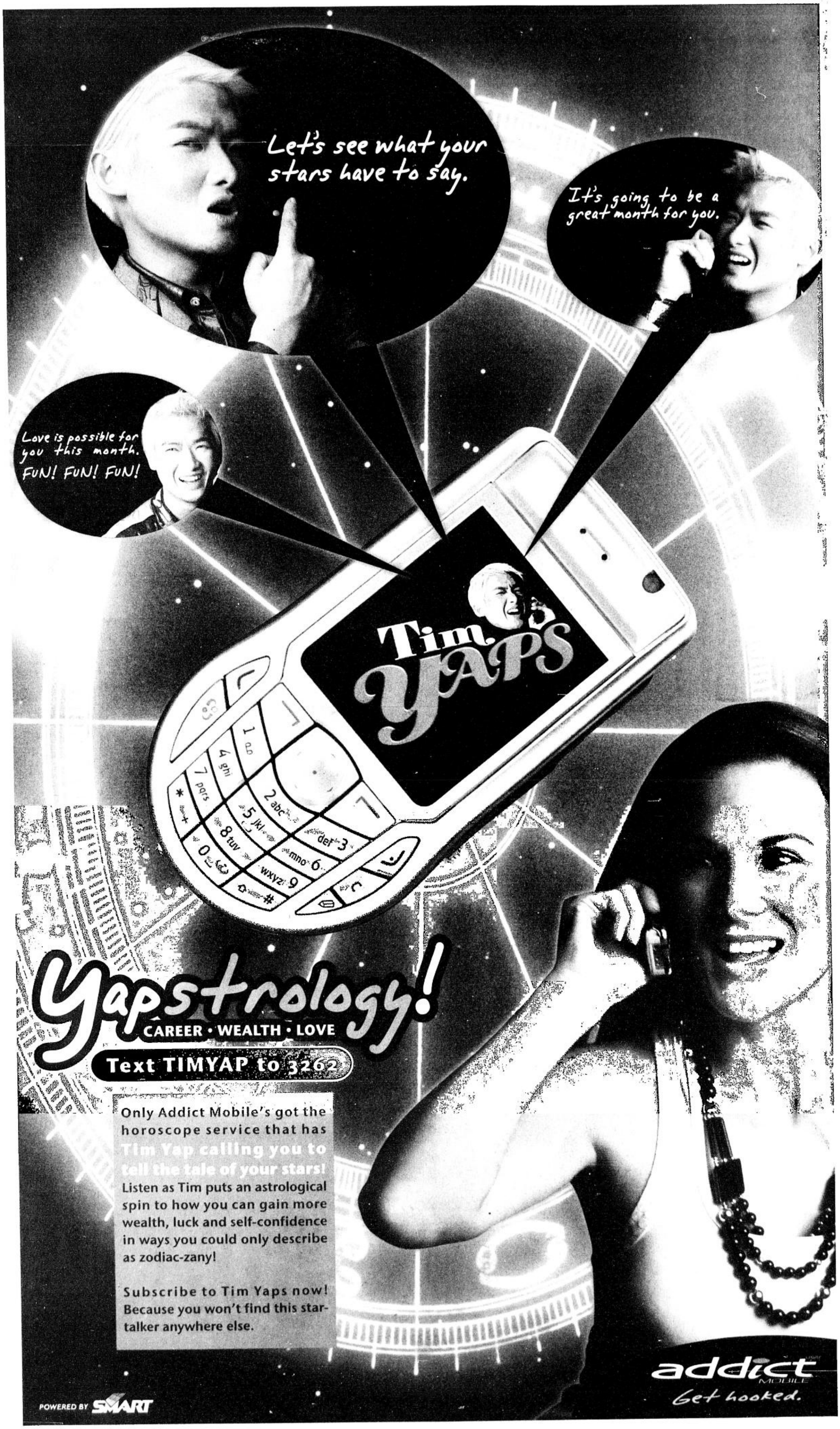
So how have I come to peaceful terms with driving in the stressful city labyrinths? Time to channel Abba—thank you for the music!

For nothing else sweetens the driving experience, especially on those long drives along the clear highways further south of the South Super. Music was what first got me started driving down the road, and it's still music that keeps me from driving myself up the wall. One does become pensive about the poetry of songs when there is nothing else to do once you've got the clutch-accelerator-brake combination down pat.

Often have I spaced out and amid the cacophony of streetlights and sounds to ponder on the levels of meaning behind certain songs. What did you mean, Neil Finn, when you sang "there is freedom within, there is freedom without" and how does one "catch the deluge in a paper cup?" What was the "miracle drug" Bono was willing to give up all romance for? What do "the bombshells of my daily fears explode" as Tasmin Archer sang, have anything to do with Galileo's head being on the chopping block? What does it mean when...oh wait, green light means go. My apologies to all the drivers blaring their car horns behind me for the momentary reverie. I can almost see one of them on my rear view mirror grumbling, "*Hay nako*, girl driver!"



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pop culture . entertainment . recreation

She wore a Versace dress worth $20,000 last seen on Naomi Campbell, and a Swatch with 174 diamonds.

Will Ornusa be the next Swatch babe?

By Tim Yap

TWO WEEKS ago in the Westin auction for Unicef, anti-It girl Ornusa Cadness was seen wearing a Versace dress worth $20,000, last seen on Naomi Campbell.

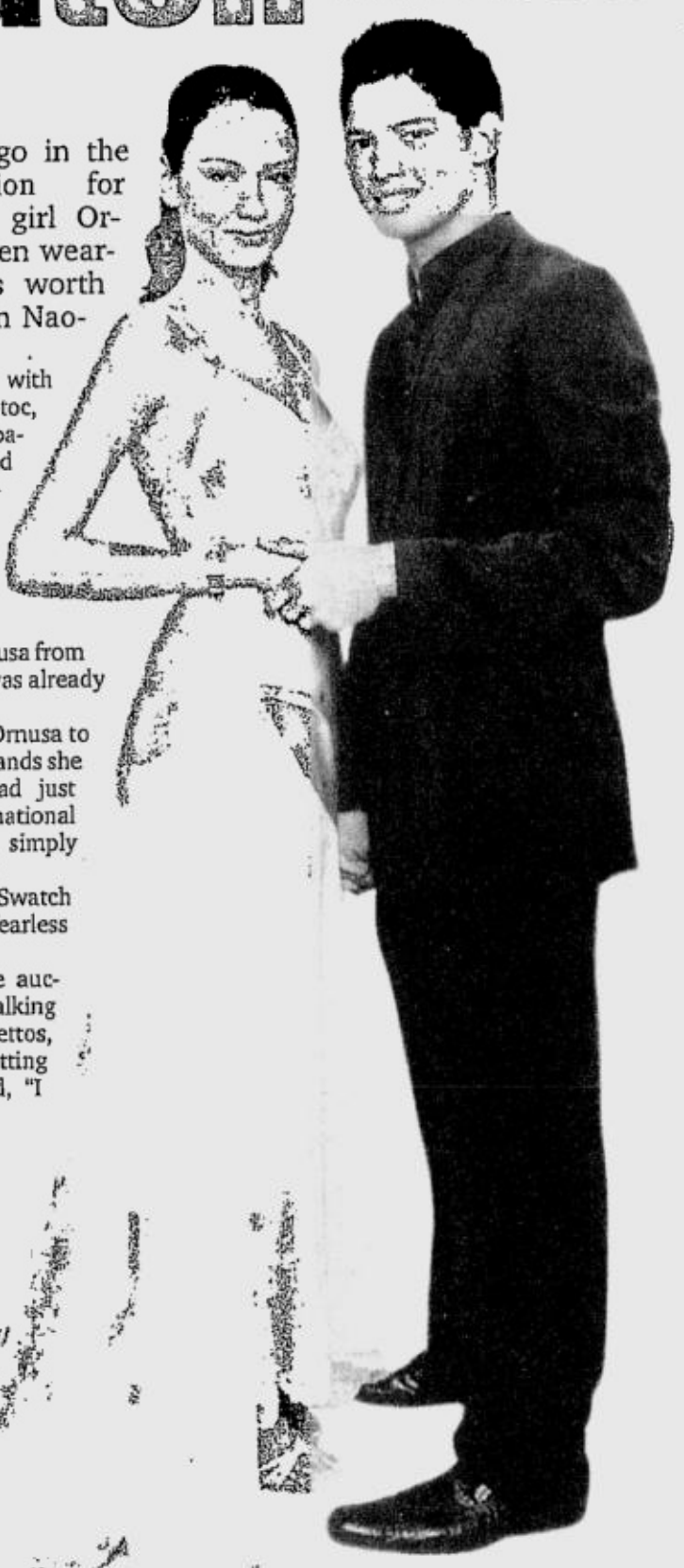
As always, she was with boyfriend Borgy Manotoc, Swatch endorser, as they paraded the diamond-studded Lustrous Bliss "limited edition with 174 diamonds" Swatch watch that was part of the auction.

"I love her," said Swatch maven Virgie Ramos as she observed Ornusa from afar. A few days after, she was already shooting for Swatch.

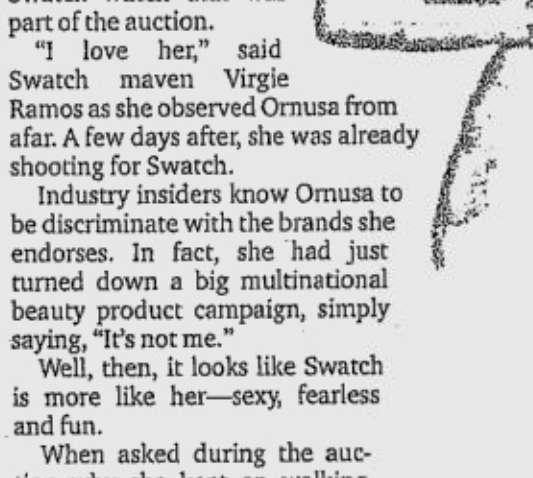
Industry insiders know Ornusa to be discriminate with the brands she endorses. In fact, she had just turned down a big multinational beauty product campaign, simply saying, "It's not me."

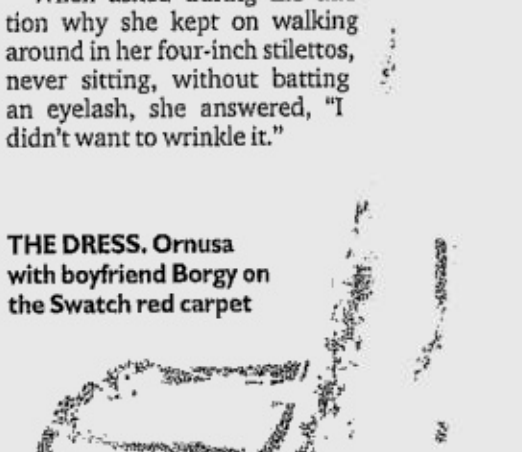
Well, then, it looks like Swatch is more like her—sexy, fearless and fun.

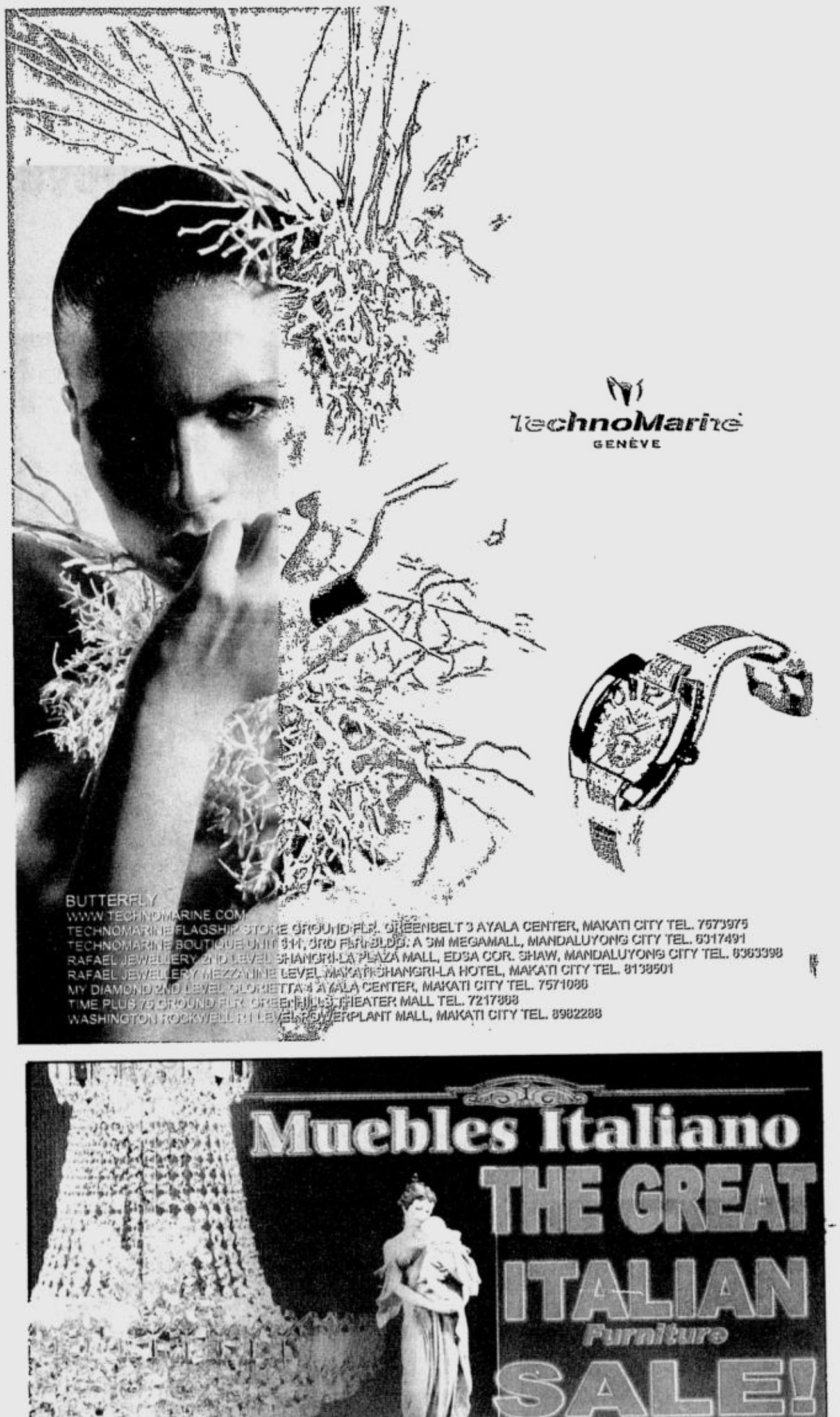
When asked during the auction why she kept on walking around in her four-inch stilettos, never sitting, without batting an eyelash, she answered, "I didn't want to wrinkle it."



THE DRESS. Ornusa with boyfriend Borgy on the Swatch red carpet







PHILIPPINE

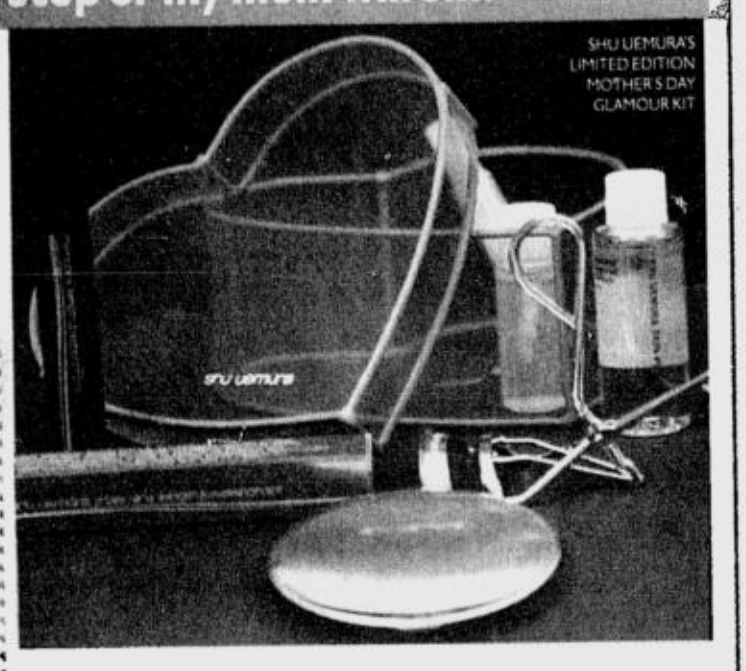
Super Selections!

We found 42 synonyms for beauty

And four more ways to achieve it

By Pam Pastor

Stop or my mom will Shu



Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

YOU USED to play with your mom's makeup, now it's time to return the favor.

Shu Uemura's angels have prepared two fab Mother's Day surprises for your favorite woman.

You can choose between two limited edition star product kits—The Mother's Day Glamour Kit and The Mother's Day Radiance Kit.

The Mother's Day Glamour Kit includes the brand's world-famous Eyelash Curler, the best-selling Length & Waterproof Mascara in Jet Black, a 20ml deluxe-sized High Performance Balancing Cleansing Oil Premium (with anti-ageing properties to keep Mom looking youthful) and Beta-G Resistance Anti-Ageing line miniatures of the Eye & Face Cream (it's perfect for travel and her small purses!). The entire set is presented in an organza heart-shaped box with a silver mirror compact made especially for this occasion.

The set, which is worth over P4,000, is an absolute treat at P2,995.

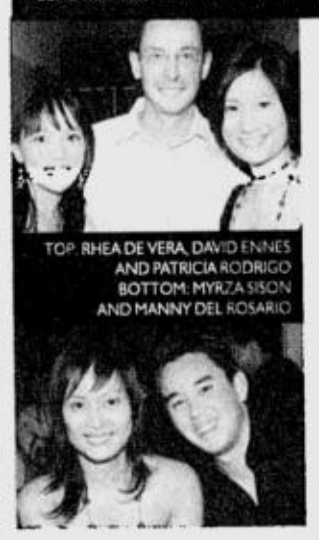
The Mother's Day Radiance Kit is perfect for moms who want to achieve radiant and luminous skin. The kit contains products from Shu Uemura's White Recovery Line. This line, which is made completely of Japanese natural phyto-ingredients, does not bleach the skin but instead helps lessen skin's sun spots and achieve its optimum luminosity. The kit includes a full-sized White Recovery Whitening Essence, 50ml of High Performance Balancing Cleansing Oil Light (Shu Uemura's best-selling skin care product of all time which is a makeup remover, cleanser and skin softener in one), 50ml bottle of White Recovery Whitening Lotion (a toner that soothes burns and helps other products absorb better), 13g of White Recovery Whitening Cream (a moisturizer that keeps the skin supple and brightens at the same time) and a White Recovery Whitening Mask Sachet (the product in the range with the highest concentration of ingredients—it's the quickest and most effective way to get an instant radiance boost). The products come in a Limited Edition White Recovery Bag.

With the White Recovery Essence priced at P4,795, the set at P4,995 is a great starter kit to give your mom.

The kits are available at Shu Uemura Counters in Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Shop early—the Shu Uemura Mother's Day Kits are only available in limited numbers.

Beauty and the best

Kiehl Bill



KIEHL'S fans no longer have to rely on trips abroad to stock up on their favorite products.

This cult cosmetic brand is finally creating a new home in the Philippines.

Soon, your favorite Lip Balm #1, Crème de Corps, Crème With Silk Groom and Blue Astringent Herbal Lotion will be just a mall trip away.

Kiehl's, which has been around since 1851, has a rich history. Originally founded as an old-world apothecary in New York City, its extensive background represents a blend of cosmetic, pharmaceutical, herbal and medicinal knowledge developed through the generations. Today, the brand is stronger than ever and is continually expanding, with Manila as its next target.

Popular for its quirky personality and simple but effective products with intriguing names, Kiehl's has a star-smattered list of fans including Hollywood biggies Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, Demi Moore, Ashley Judd and Lenny Kravitz.

The International Development Team of Kiehl's, including Catherine Roggero (Kiehl's VP for International Development) and Patricia Rodrigo (Kiehl's International Development Marketing Manager) recently flew in and visited the Philippines for the first time. New York hip met Filipino hospitality at Embassy Cuisine, at an intimate dinner and reception hosted by the L'Oreal Philippines Team (Kiehl's is part of the group's international luxury portfolio).

The party, which was organized by Kiehl's Philippines Brand Manager Tina Tinio (who also handles Shu Uemura), was a fun evening attended by L'Oreal Philippines VIPs, fashion and beauty industry personalities and fans of the brand.

Watch out for Kiehl's in the coming months.

Be Culte

CULTE Femme launched its Summer 2005 Collection recently at a "Palm Beach Party"-themed event at Embassy's Super! Club.

Hindy Weber-Tantoco, the face and brain behind the brand, transported her guests to sandy shores with models showcasing Culte Femme's key pieces—breezy flowing tops, floor-length dresses, pleated shorts, wide trousers and classic wrap bodices. The kaftan made a comeback in floral prints. This season's collection, which was inspired by Palm Beach, features different leaf, animal and ethnic prints on cool fabrics in vivid summer colors like flamingo pink, azure blue and fern green.

Culte Femme is exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinson's Place Manila and Alabang Town Center.

THE CIRCUIT PARTY PRIMER

Why is Manila so hot this weekend?

By Jojo Nones

THIS Manila weekend is on fire as Circuit Asia brings to fore its initial string of the hottest circuit parties in the region.

Last Thursday opened with Manila's tribal wunderkind Bam del Valle dishing out New York anthems during the welcome party at the Manila Diamond Hotel, setting the tone for the four-day-long party weekend. Last night, Bed Bar resident DJ Travis Monsod opened for DJ Kimerly S at the "Fiesta" (opening party) held at the NBC Tent. Tonight, it's Government resident and Philippine superstar Kevin Ruiz opening for DJ Brett Henrichsen at the "Pearl of the Pacific" (main party) at the PNB Amphitheater. And finally, tomorrow, Hyatt Hotel and Casino plays host to the pool party in the afternoon while the World Trade Center will rock with "Fire and Mud" (closing party) as Cocoy Puyat opens for DJ Gomi.

Yes, there is not time for rest.

CIRCUITASIA's Tony Barobaro (left) and Ding Pastrana

CIRCUIT party performer Kevin Aviance (left) with manager, half-Pinoy, half-Swiss Joseph

But what are these circuit parties? And who the hell is Circuit Asia?

Allow me to explain by debunking myths and demystifying the phenomenon that is Circuit Asia.

Myth: Circuit Asia is basically the four Manila parties from April 28-May 1. It's a one-time thing.

Fact: On the contrary, these four parties are but a fraction of 10 major events lined up until March of next year. The other six are: "Ah' Manilahhh!" (June 24); "Salvation's Black Party" (Oct. 29); "Salvation's Masquerade Sex Ball" (Oct. 30); "Resolution Party" (2005 year-end party); "Agape: The Story About Love Party" (Feb. 18, 2006); "Paradiso Nights" (Puerto Galera Summer 2006).

Myth: CircuitAsia is just an event.

Fact: Yes, CircuitAsia 2005 is one of the greatest party events ever to happen in Manila, but it is not just a party. Rather, it is part of a growing gay lifestyle, wherein people of different passions come together as a community to simply have fun, and more often than not, party for a cause. Simply put, it is a celebration of life.

Myth: CircuitAsia is just another events company.

Fact: Nothing can be farther from the truth. Its reason to exist is to raise funds for the Gift Foundation, an organization devoted to fighting AIDS. All the proceeds from CircuitAsia 2005, as well as those from the subsequent events till March 2006, shall go to fund the projects of the Gift Foundation.

Myth: CircuitAsia is exclusively gay and discriminatory towards non-gays.

Fact: Although circuit parties are mainly geared towards the GLBT community, that does not mean that CircuitAsia 2005 shall exclude the straight populace. As the utmost values CircuitAsia wants to uplift are respect for individuality, pride, and unity out of understanding each other's differences, its parties promote not only a greater gay community, but also a better, more cohesive society as a whole. It believes that in a pluralistic society, we need to coexist in diversity to uphold unity.

Myth: CircuitAsia is corporate-driven.

Fact: The organizers, out of passion, are staging these events and lifestyles in order to bring a bigger voice for the pink community. Surely sponsorships are most welcome signs of support, but CircuitAsia believes that profit is but an after-effect of a duty sincerely and excellently served. As the saying goes, if you build it, they will come. In the end, everyone is better off because, as Ding Pastrana and Tony Barobaro of Circuit Asia would say, "We are simply celebrating life."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MY BEAUTY Hub, the newly opened beauty and skincare boutique at Ayala Avenue, promises to le the answer to your make- eams and pampering wishes. iginally from Singapore, the pt behind My Beauty Hub created to serve as a work- venue, beauty school and ng center in one for both nd women.

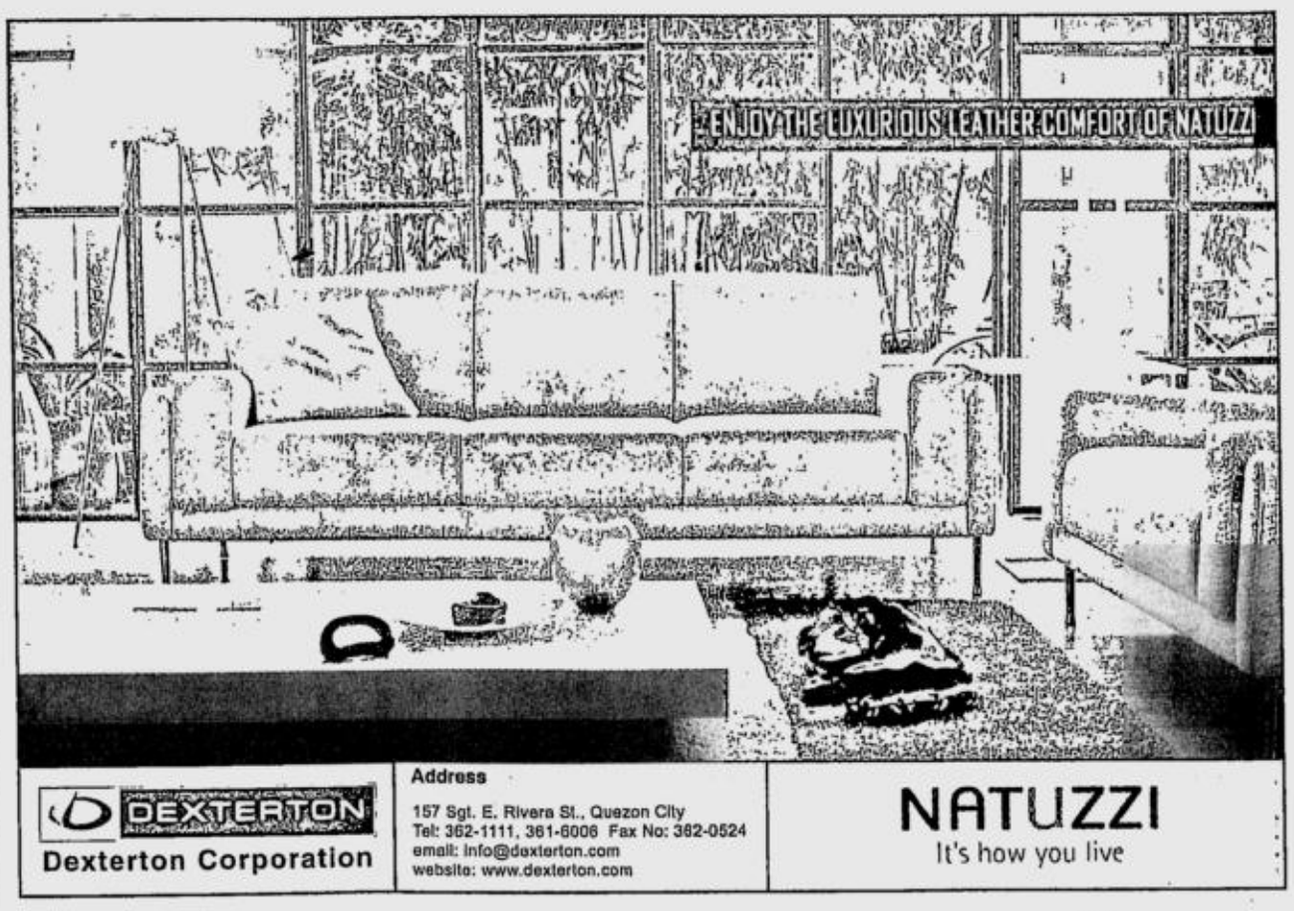
A ROMERO-SALAS AND SANTI PICORNELL

BOGEE ROMERO, CHERIE HABAYEB, LEE ROBERTO, KRISTINE DEL VILLAR AND KEVIN LIMJOCO

The Manila store, which was launched in an "Alice in Wonderland"-themed party, offers exclusive names in European treatment lines and also intends to be a portal for people to experience and learn about the secrets to total beauty.

There are private pampering sessions for individuals who want some alone time as well as groups getting ready for big events like weddings, proms and birthday parties. My Beauty Hub can also serve as a venue for tea parties with your friends. Workshops on makeup and grooming are also offered for a minimum of five people and, take note, they're not just for women. The skin analysis machine is also an important part of My Beauty Hub's menu of indulgences.

Brands like Carita of Paris, Shiseido, Phytomer and Vie, Zirh, Shiseido Men, Nickel, Phytomer Homme, By Terry, Fleurs, Pied Nus and Jean-Paul Gaultier Le Male will line My Beauty Hub's shelves.



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NATUZZI
It's how you live

Catch Unbeatable Sony Deals

Make life more exciting as Sony Philippines comes up with great offers to suit your needs and style. For camera purchases made until June 30, valued Sony consumers nationwide can avail of the Sony Triple Treats Plus Promo. This one-of-a-kind campaign provides a 3-Year warranty for all new Handycam and Cyber-shot models, and an overwhelming 5 to 10-year Warranty for selected Sony Memory Sticks! This extended warranty appeals not just to tech-savvy consumers but to anyone who wants to avail of worry-free purchases which Sony can only provide.

Specially created for camera enthusiasts, another privilege is the Accessory Gift Check that comes along upon buying Sony Handycam or Cyber-shot models. Depending on the models purchased, one can get as high as 10,000 pesos worth of gift certificates. Shop all-you-want from camera cases, lens, filters, batteries, up to marine packs! Creating photos and videos like a professional will be easy with these specially-designed add-ons. With these on hand, you can never go wrong in any occasion or celebration. Feel proud as you share high-quality images to your friends and loved ones.

There is nothing like getting low prices for high-quality cameras. Sony lets everybody feel that owning a Handycam and a Cyber-shot is a practical choice with affordable costs. In fact, Handycam and Cyber-shot camera prices are relatively at par (some models are even lower here) with neighboring Asian countries such as Singapore and Hong Kong. Why canvass and look for cameras abroad when you can buy here reasonably priced Sony Handycam and Cyber-shot cameras bundled with extended warranty and accessory gift check?

In order to avail of these exciting offers, unit has to be purchased from any authorized Sony Philippines outlet. A friendly reminder is to always look for the official Sony Philippines warranty card. Catch up and get geared for your dream summer escapades! Splurge and enjoy capturing those moments with your own Sony Handycam and Cyber-shot.

ADVT

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With the new Sun Cellular Prepaid SIM Pack, you can enjoy unlimited local Sun-to-Sun calls and text for 7 days. To activate your SIM, simply make your first call or text to another Sun subscriber. After the 7-day validity period, you need to load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card or another 24/7 Unlimited card. To call and text your friends in other networks, simply load a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.

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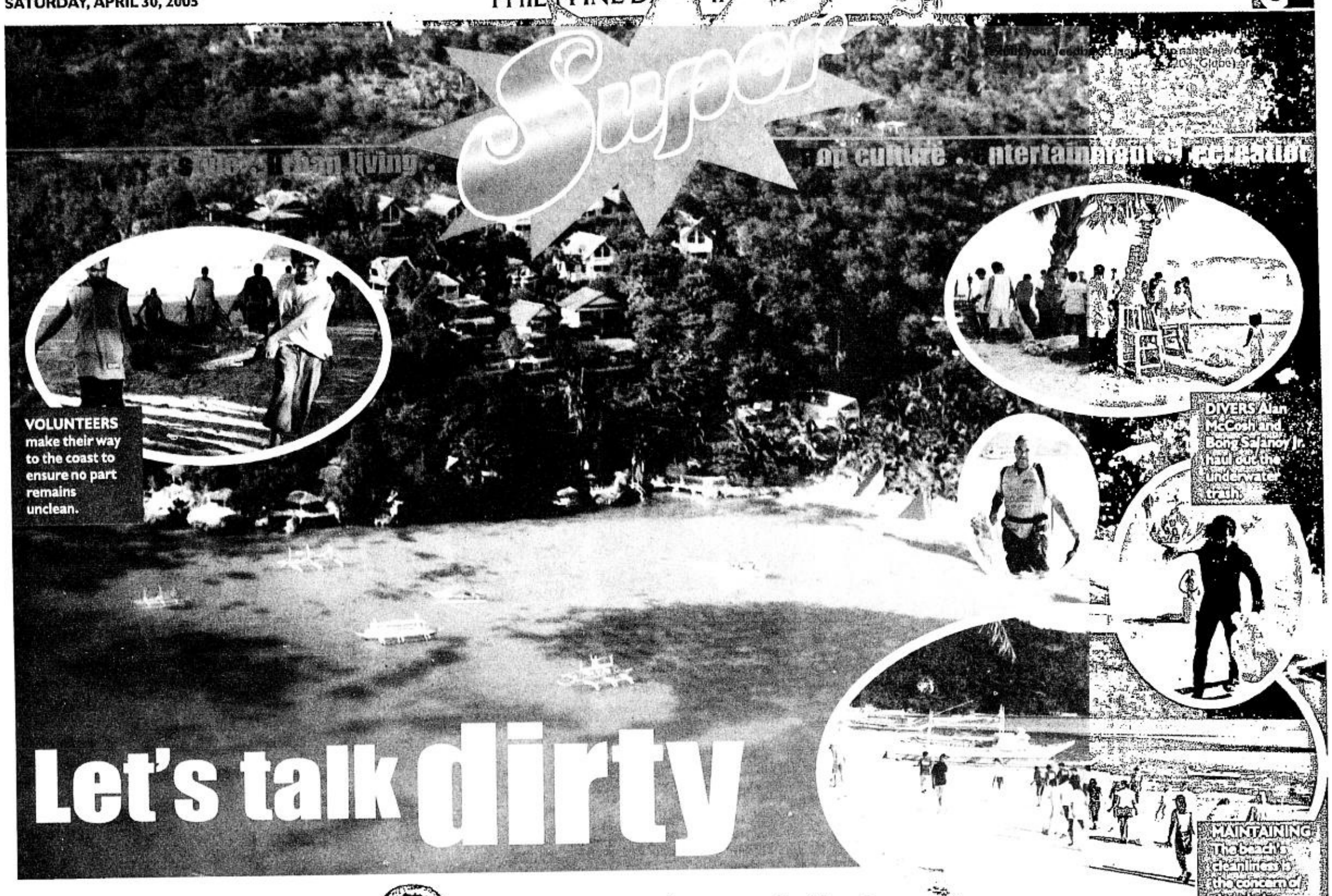


ALL CLEANUP PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDD FUENTES

Save Boracay from pollution!

Beyond the runway

Raya Mananquil

I AM WHAT you call a "Boracay Virgin," defined as someone who has never been to Boracay. There are those on the other hand, what you call "Boracay Whores," those who frequent this island either during the summer, Holy Week, Christmas, New Year or all of the above. I have recently been de-virginized. Gasp.

There are valid as well as inane reasons why I have avoided the beach:

1) Watching Jaws and all its sequels has forever instilled a horror that I might one day become shark food.

2) Hence, I became extremely hydrophobic.

3) Dubious domestic flights.

4) Sun damage.

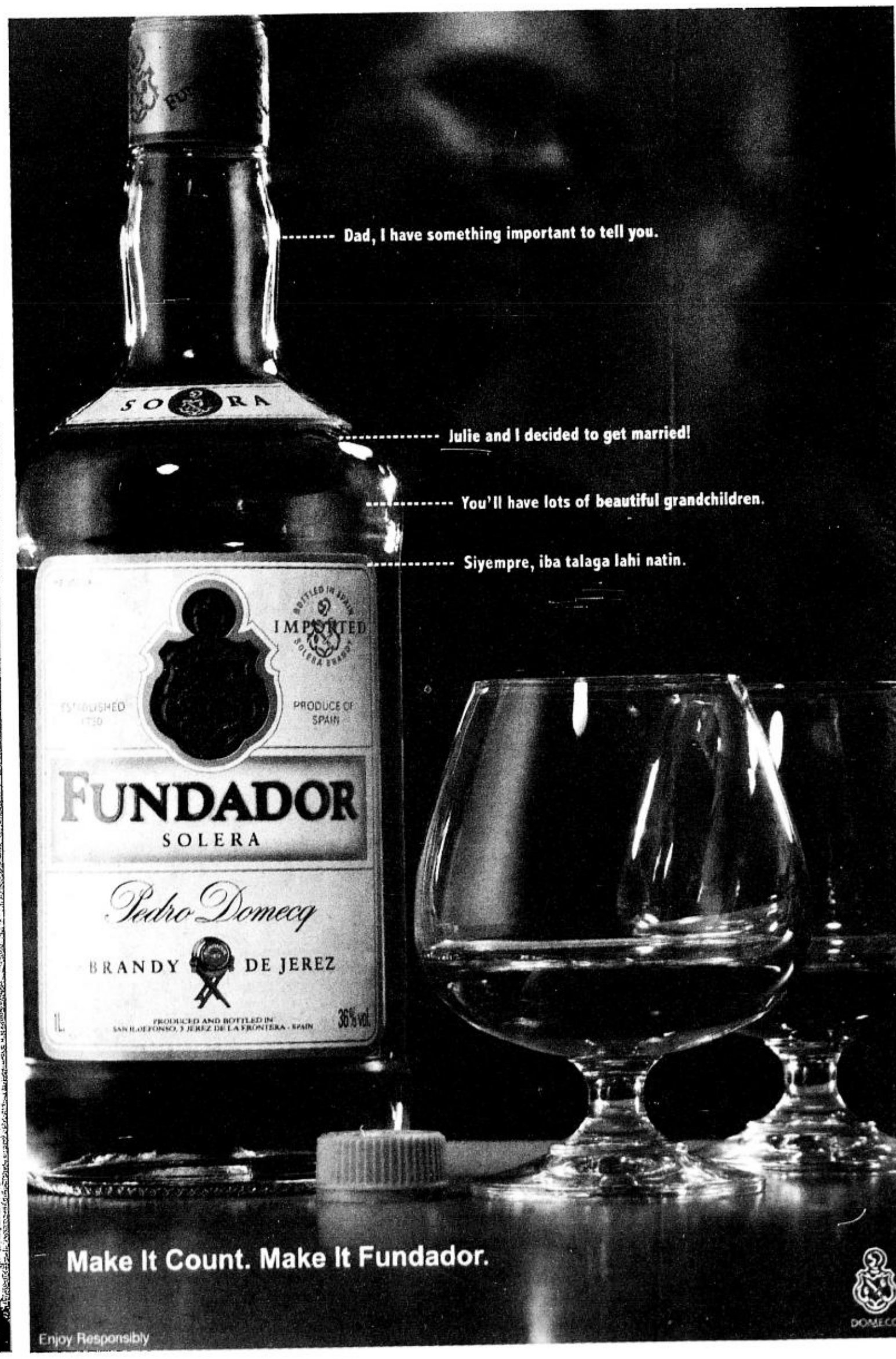
So they're all absurd. But those are my fear factors. However, because of my newly acquired swimming skills, I am now braving the waters and going further into the deep end. Bath tubs no longer freak me out, although the vast ocean still gives me the heebie-jeebies.

When I was invited by a friend to Boracay and stay at the luxurious Nami Private Villas, I couldn't refuse. I armed myself with SPF and crossed my fingers as I hopped into what seemed like my nephew's toy airplane. Upon ar

LET'S/G2

PHOTO BY COREY WILLS

PHOTO BY RAYA MANANQUIL



BABE, dude, babe, dude. Chinggay Andrada, Lorenzo di Stefano, Rachel Alejandro and Tray Webb

BRAZILIAN invasion! – Havaianas flipflops come with Bruna Abdalah. You wish.

TATTOOED on my hind

Sundressed

This Bora story is brought to you by...

MANOLET'S Diary

DORAN Sordo obeys the call of command-mente

L is for Lorenzo Manalang of L Time Studio

SPOTTED at the beach, JM Rodriguez

NICOLE Hernandez, still in Bora.

By Tals Diaz

TAKE a moment and just imagine. A posse of San Mig Light-worshipping celebs, models, media fixtures and paparazzi darlings transported from the city to the white sands of Boracay. Picture them attempting their darndest best to channel volleyball icons

Gabrielle Reece, Leila Barros and Karch Kiraly under the sweltering summer heat. (Unbearable—and I wasn't referring to the heat.) Then get them to pelt each other with colored water in a modified game of dodgeball, play um—Not-Quite-Ultimate frisbee, and then wharf down *balut* in a mini version of The Amazing Race. Okay, so it wasn't quite the Summer Olympics in tropical paradise, (in fact, it could have been mistaken for the Special Olympics in Boracay) but then again, when you're at the beach, it's all about letting loose, having fun and making friends even if your face has mutated to oily polvoron, right? That was the sunny vibe of Boracay Bound 2005, a three-day affair of fun and funny games, sexy dames, studs and duds, all chilling by the sunset and testing the limits of their livers as night falls.

Fun..ny games

Admittedly, it was refreshing to see the sassy Manila set shed off not just their city clothes but, well, a substantial degree of shame, all for the love of the game and being game. Just picture, femme fatale **Phoem Barranda**, serving justice to the string bikini even as she couldn't quite do justice to the volleyball serve. Or how about style icon **Jenni Epperson**, while still managing to accessorize an Addict Mobile T-shirt with a splash of zebra print, on all fours filling up empty San Miguel bottles with sea water in a race to fill up a *balde*?

Likewise a tip of the hat to columnist and Circuit magazine's creative force majeure **JR Isaac** for leading his squad to second place prestige (we were all of three teams), facing foes in a reworked T-shirt cape and armed with a plastic watergun. My personal shout outs go to the muscular, madcap tandem of **Geoff Rodriguez and Rovilson Fernandez** for being bad to the bone on the field and for tickling everyone's funny bones during the (several) water and alcohol breaks.

"Kissing" by the sunset

The famed Boracay sunset was painted in even more beautiful hues as the Danish/Swedish/African foursome Bliss lulled the lounging sun worshippers with their chill-out classic, "Kissing." Singer Alexandra Hamnede's cerulean voice in fact stirred Bora Bound fixture **Doran Sordo** to comment, "that song made this island breathe again." Amen to that, for there really was something spiritual when the song "Kissing" resonated through the twilight. It's no wonder that the song was included in over 50 global chillout, compilations. The laidback foursome of Bliss, flown in by Smart Infinity, marveled at the sights of Boracay, and even professed it to be more beautiful than Bali and Ibiza. (Cut to: WOW Philippines jingle).

A Tale of two nights

As night fell, the beachcombers were then given free visas to Embassy Superclub, miraculously teleported for a night from Manila to Bora, first kicking off with a summer fashion show. The handsdown catwalk queen proved to be Brazilian goddess **Bruna Abdalah**, at least based on the spectators' scream-o-meter. To spark off the night's good vibes, **GP Reyes** spun some classic club anthems. Embassy's resident DJ **Martin Pulgar** quickened everyone's pulse, and thereafter **Manolet Dario** indulged the inebriated crowd with his spinful behavior.

The next night, the island was treated to some sweet beach house treats as Hed Kandi flew into the coastline, with **DJ Andy Norman** getting on the turntable at 5AM for the peaking crowd who feared not the light of the rising sun.

"Bora bonds"

Kudos to **Stephen Ku**, the brainchild behind Bora Bound, whom I deftly admire for rounding up—or more like waking up—such a ragtag team to carve out yet another unforgettable summer weekend. To echo his words, "the Bora bonds can never be broken!" Maybe so, though some dignities may have been shattered, certain souls may still be misplaced somewhere between Club Paraw and Hey Jude, and withered livers are still healing from the constant refueling of beer, it's the ties made in paradise that are hard to break. Awww...

DIBAY NA! Stephen Ku, Doran Sordo and Geoff Rodriguez

ZIP IT good! Geoff Rodriguez, Vic Consunji and Isha Andaya gettin' zippy with it

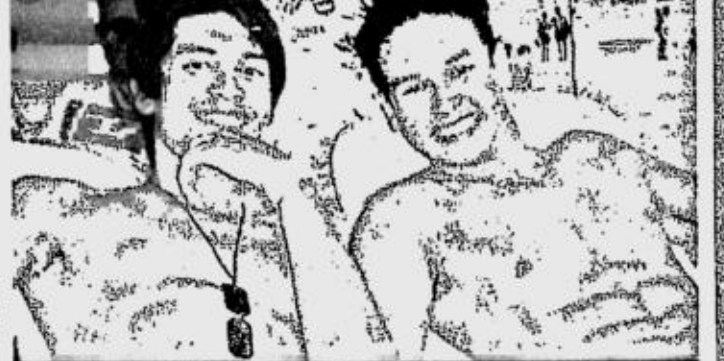
BLISSED OUT. Alexandra Hamnede kisses the sunset.

VOTED most active female on Chair Michelle Kadpeak

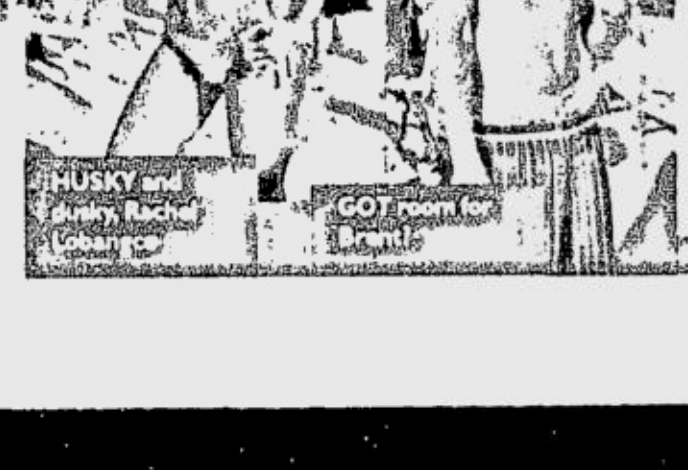
BORA BONDED Chicho Suarez, GP Reyes, Manolet Dario and Vic Consunji

THIS is Erik Cua, not Gino de La Paz

WHEN chic hits the sand... Jenni Epperson, Celine Lopez and Jacquie Dupuiguier



TEAM Accessories wins second place



HUSKY and chunky Rachel Lobaton

GOT room for Dayat?

ABS SPOTTED IN BORA! Easter bunny brothers Luke and Martin Jickain (top), Anton Mendoza with Brasilian model Francesco and soul mate Mark San Diego

Let's talk dirty

From page G1

rival at the room, I looked out my balcony to see the amazing view of Diniwid beach. The service of the Nami team was above par- from land and water transportation services to chocolates on your pillows, I felt like an island princess. I could definitely get used to this.

I suppose it would be futile for me to babble on about the highlights of Boracay—you've seen and heard about the fine white sand, the crystal clear blue waters, the spectacular sunsets, and the joys of drinking Jonah's banana choco-peanut shakes. Let me tell you about the filthy side of it-the increasing solid waste.

Edd Fuentes, owner of the Sun Village resorts, says that because of the growing number of tourists each year, so does the amount of litter. "We have to push for 'responsible tourism,' where we educate them on the basic rule of simply disposing your trash properly. It's such an awful sight to see soda cans, food wrappers, cigarette butts and even diapers thrown on the beachfront or into the ocean."

Fuentes is a member of the Boracay Foundation Inc., composed of stakeholders headed by president Lara Salaver & chair Henry Chusuey, organizes regular island cleanups. These monthly cleanups receive assistance from various NGO's including the Kiwanis Club of Boracay, the Philippine Coast Guard Auxillary, the Boracay Association of Scuba Diving Schools, plus volunteers from residents and tourists.

Even the locals are doing their part. Since August 2004, residents and establishments have been segregating their biodegradable, non-biodegradable and recyclable wastes.

Yes, you can still party and dance yourself silly at Cocomangas or Nigi-Nigi. You can still climb the mountains and have boat picnics. You can still enjoy the island and not contribute to its pollution so long as you tidy up after yourself. Even better, you can volunteer for the regular coastal and ocean cleanups.

Having the opportunity to ride the paraw, I came to appreciate the beauty of the deep blue water as we sailed around the island. But the view of dumpsites on the borders of the island and flotsam on the sea made me ponder.

I may be afraid of sharks, but I am more fearful of the destruction of marine life. Unless we respect and protect the environment, perhaps my greatest fear will be the fate of Mother Earth.

* * *

Make your next trip to Boracay a fulfilling one and volunteer for the beach and coastal cleanups. Contact the Boracay Foundation Inc. at (036) 288-3971 or 288-6291 for more information.

If you want to know what it's like staying atop a cliff side at the Nami Private Villas, call 812-1484 or 813-6264 for bookings. Have a pleasurable sail with the Sasha Sailing Club on "Womby," the only paraw that plays music or your iPod with a selection of drinks. Contact their partner resorts including Nami (036) 288-6753 or 0918-9344709. You may also book for a ride at the front desks of Fridays, Sea Wind, Waling-Waling, Patio Pacific and Regency.

You can also feast on an eat-all-you-can salad and grill buffet and stay at the Sun Village Resorts. Call their Manila office at 813-1338 / 8937293, Boracay office (036) 288-5441 to 42 or check out their website www.sunre-sorts.com.ph

Email the author eatyourtofu@yahoo.com

FALLEN tree trunks are carried off, and leaves by the tide are collected for disposal.

Pond's Is All Set to Invade Boracay with the Deep Clean Routine!

Boracay will never be the same again as Pond's kicks off its Face Revolution Activation in the ultimate summer place to be. Reminiscent of the Dance Revolution phenomenon that took the world by storm a few years ago, Pond's introduces Face Revolution, the Deep Clean Routine that is set to be the newest craze to invade the whole Philippines. Through the Face Revolution Booth, Pond's invites women to feel deeply clean, deeply beautiful with Pond's Anti-Bacterial Facial Scrub.

May 6 to 8 will be the official launch of the Pond's Face Revolution, and will begin a series of Face Revolution Activations all over the Philippines. Amid the cool and laidback setting of Boracay, guests are invited to experience the Face Revolution Booth and follow the steps to a deeply clean, deeply beautiful face. Pond's introduces six steps, the Forehead Swipe, Eye Orbiter, Cheek Sweep, Nose Lift, Square Lipped and Smiley Chin, all vibrant enough to be the newest dance craze! Participants can show their own take of the Deep Clean Routine, have themselves video-taped while doing the routine and even get the chance to be part of the next Pond's TV Commercial.

Celebrity guests will officially launch the Pond's Face Revolution and lend their own brand of flair to the Deep Clean Routine. Witness how Pond's Women Nicole Hernandez, Kelly Misa, Georgina Wilson and some of the hottest celebrities of today, deeply clean their faces while dancing their hearts away in the Pond's Face Revolution Booth. After the booth media launch, the Face Revolution Booth will be opened to the public for them to experience the Deep Clean Routine for themselves! Guests will then be invited to a sundown party that will carry on the festivities started by the Face Revolution Booth. The party will also showoff the latest summer collections of today in a fashion show featuring the hottest celebrities and Pond's Women. And of course, expect a lot of cool music to continue the dancing started by the Deep Clean Routine!

Definitely the Pond's Face Revolution Launch is something to look forward to. Witness and be part of Pond's own version of the ultimate beach party in Boracay on May 6 to 8 and watch out for more of Pond's Face Revolution as it tours the Philippines!

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win ₱100,000 and star in the next Pond's TV commercial!

Watch out for the POND'S FACE REVOLUTION booth and experience the deep clean that your face deserves.

- Follow the steps of the Pond's Deep Clean Routine:

Forehead Swipe · Eye Orbiter · Cheek Sweep · Nose Lift · Square Lipped · Smiley Chin

- Show us your moves and scrub with style.
- Bring home a copy of your performance.
- Be one of the 4 best videos and you'll receive ₱100,000 plus the chance to star in the next Pond's TV commercial.

POND'S ANTI BACTERIAL FACIAL SCRUB
Feel deeply clean, deeply beautiful

Plazoleta, Boracay - May 6-7 · SM Baguio - May 14-15 · SM Megamall - May 21-22 · SM Davao - May 28-29 · Glorietta, Makati - June 4-5

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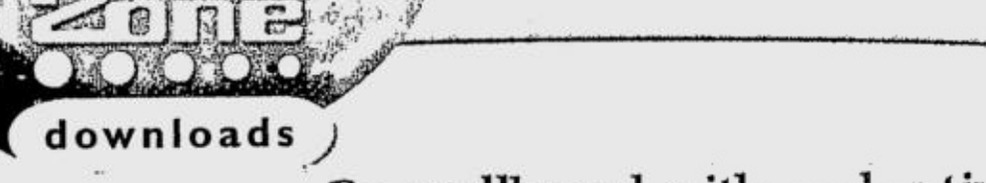

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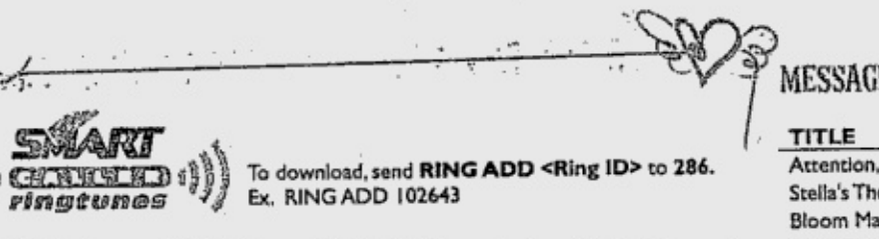

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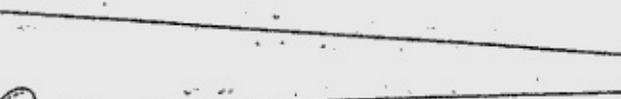

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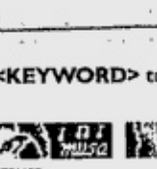

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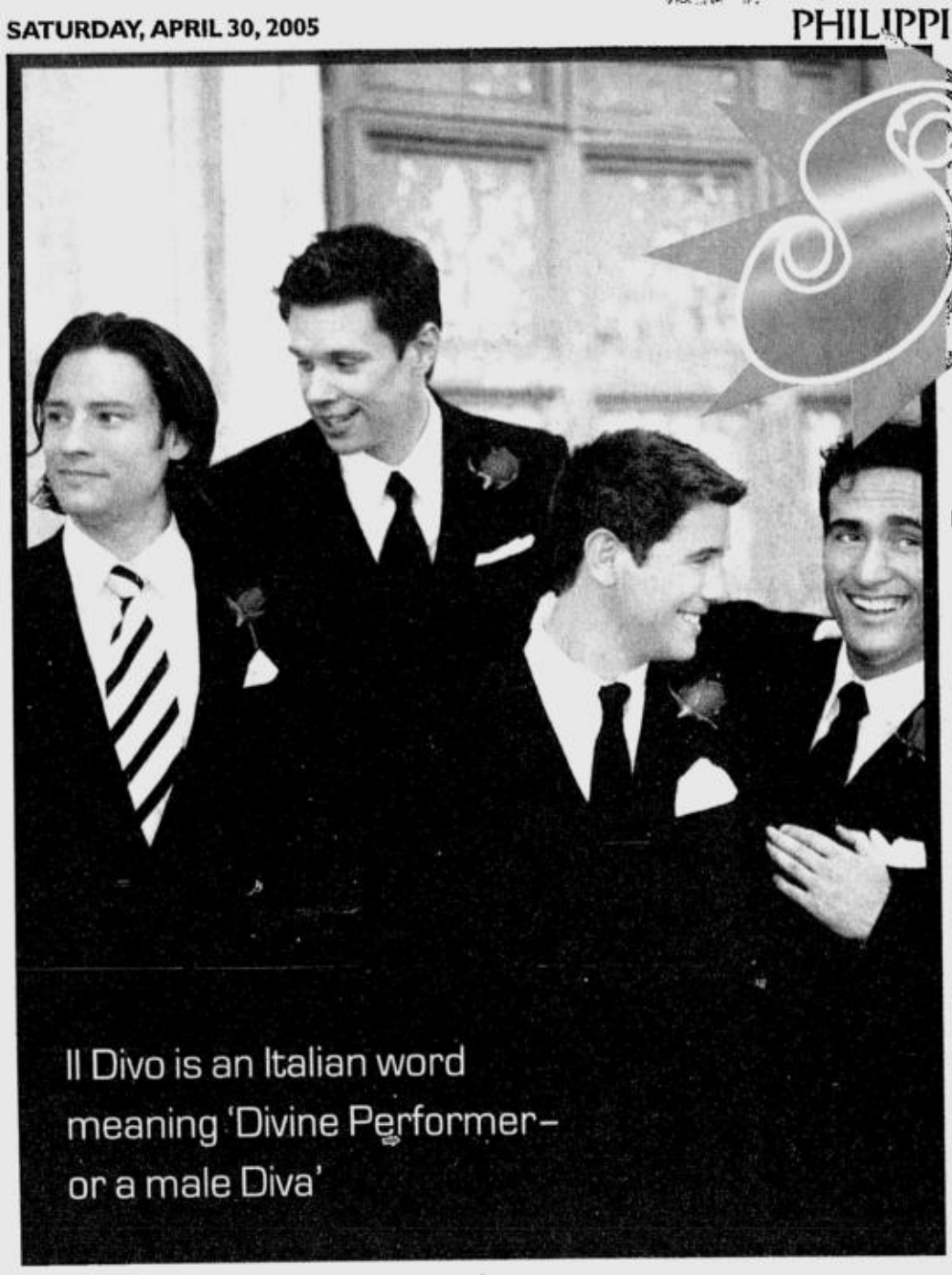

II Divo is an Italian word meaning 'Divine Performer– or a male Diva'

THE NEW FAB FOUR. Carlos, Seb, David and Urs, discovered by Simon Cowell, collectively known as Il Divo.

Lend me four tenors

By Tim Yap
Photos by Bill Green and Tim Yap
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE ESTABLISHMENT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

ANY GROUP that garners Simon Cowell's thumbs up is worth a closer look. With that in mind, I packed my bags and hopped off to the Land Down Under to say, "G'Day, mates!" to four internationally renowned young male singers who "apply operatic technique and virtuosity to the interpretation of romantic songs from the popular repertoire, with full orchestral accompaniment."

THESE are the guys who bumped off Robbie Williams off the UK charts. They are dressed exclusively by Giorgio Armani.

In short, think Westlife, Backstreet Boys or New Kids on the Block, this time singing pop-opera, donning Giorgio Armani suits and black, pointed shoes. Dubbed as "The World's First Operatic Supergroup," this boy band was the result of a two year worldwide search by Simon Cowell. When I asked the guys how they felt when they met Simon, three of the four guys said, "we didn't even know who he was when we auditioned."

It boasts of American David Miller, Sebastien Izambard from France, Urs Buhler from Switzerland and Carlos Marin from Spain. All four men have assumed key roles in operatic and musical productions worldwide. I saw David in the Baz Luhrman Broadway production of "La Boheme" while Carlos has done "Man of La Mancha," "Les Miz" and "Beauty and the Beast." Sebastien composes his own songs and Urs used to headline his own rock band.

Il Divo is an Italian phrase meaning, the "divine performer" or "male diva."

Top of the pops

Their multi-national identity reflects the universal appeal of their music. When they launched in the UK, they sold quadruple platinum, beating Robbie Williams in the top slot. In Ireland and Norway, it has also garnered multi-platinum status. Over here in our shores, in just a few weeks of release, they debuted at No. 5 in Tower Records and No. 8 in Odyssey. Baby Arenas wants to bring the group to Manila (after the success of her Bocelli concert) and I heard that their album is Jaza's (Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala) gift to his friends.

Their first single, "Unbreak My Heart," their rendition in Spanish, is a perfect background music for hopeless romantics. "Ma-

LEND/ H2

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Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest SM Advantage promos and highlights.

Il Divo is a new vocal concept featuring 4 internationally renowned young male singers who apply operatic technique and virtuosity to the interpretation of romantic songs from the popular repertoire, with full orchestral accompaniment

Lend me four tenors

SONGS to fall in love with, songs to fall in live to... Your Super! autographed album cover

THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT. Il Divo, as photographed by Bill Green for this exclusive Super! shoot outside their hotel in Sydney, Australia. All clothes by Giorgio Armani.

From page H1

ma," their second single in English is perfect for the Pinoys—it's for the mama's boys (admit it, there's a lot of you out there). And hey, since beloved momma's day is next week, maybe this would make the perfect gift—four stunning guys with great gifts, of voice. Your mother will love you forever.

Listening to their album on my way to work (what work?), Il Divo also has an interesting rendition of "My Way," (A Mi Manera) which is quite tricky, since every guy worth their spice can sing this song in their sleep. Finally, a new version to sing for karaoke.

In Sydney, a showcase of voice, style and romance was held at The Dolton House at Jones Bay Wharf. I sat down with Il Divo for some tonsil hockey—I mean *téte a téte.*

If you could complete the sentence if I could do it my way, I would...

Carlos: Cook myself, coz' I like to be eaten.

Urs: If I could... I wouldn't change a thing

David: Unbreak my heart

Sebastien: If I could... I would sing it.

Carlos: If I could... I would give my number to all the girls... 077, *haha* kidding

Lets talk about romance now. I think you are all romantic in different levels. What was the most romantic thing you did for a partner?

Carlos: It was very funny, I brought her to Disneyland. I booked the best suite in Disneyland hotel... with Minnie, kidding.

Urs: I knew this girl for five weeks. Then I had to leave for Austria, because we sang there for six weeks, so I haven't seen her. After the last performance, I jumped into the car and drove 110 km back to Amsterdam. And knocked on her door at 9 a.m.

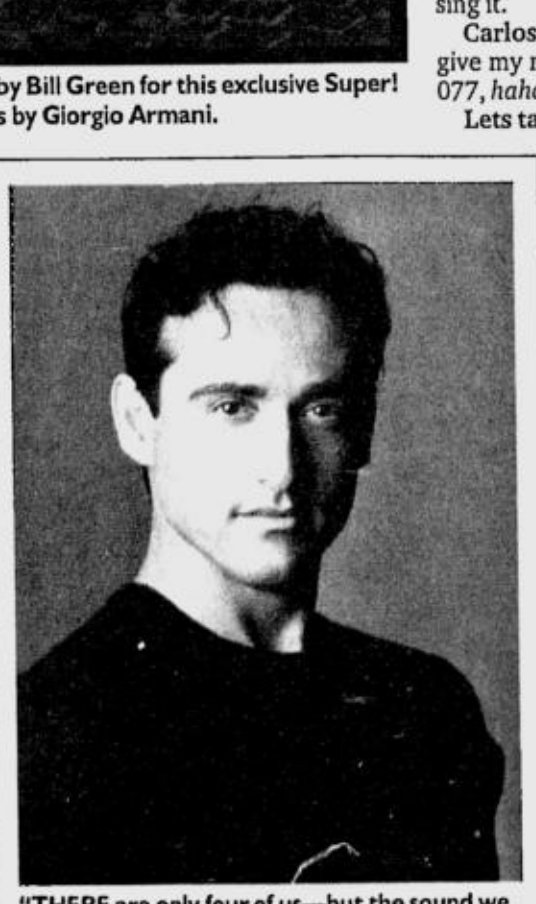
David: When I was in the audition for Il Divo, I was in Paris, and I haven't seen my girlfriend for quite some time, I actually flew her to Paris. I tell you there's nothing better to me than having a nice romantic dinner, drinking champagne, walk down the Seine River and then...

Sebastien: I actually rode in a wagon. That was her birthday. We took the train from Paris to Venice. And we took the vagoon... the bleeeep. And then, we went to Venice and went to the best hotel and we had sex all night and it was beautiful!

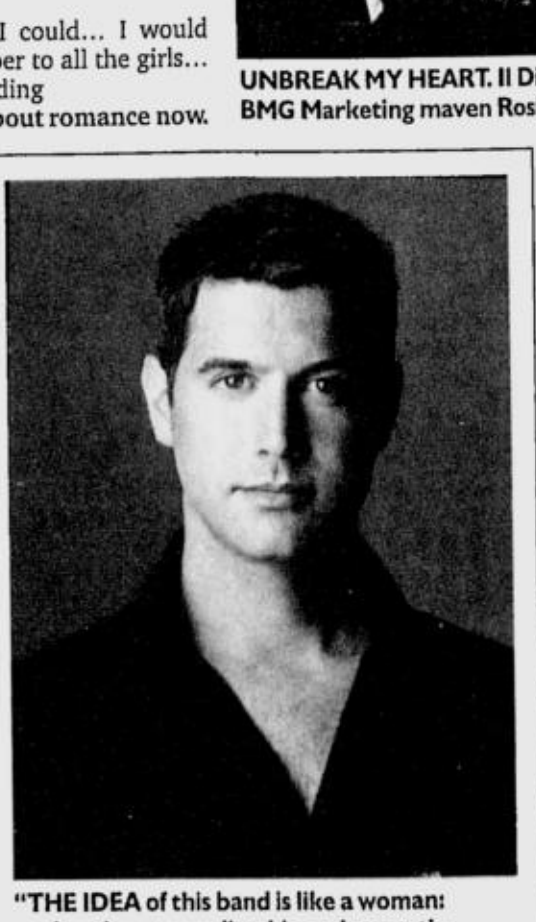
A MI MANERA. Il Divo with wannabe 5th Asian boy band member at the Establishment Hotel in Sydney.

UNBREAK MY HEART. Il Divo with Sony BMG Marketing maven Roslyn Reyes

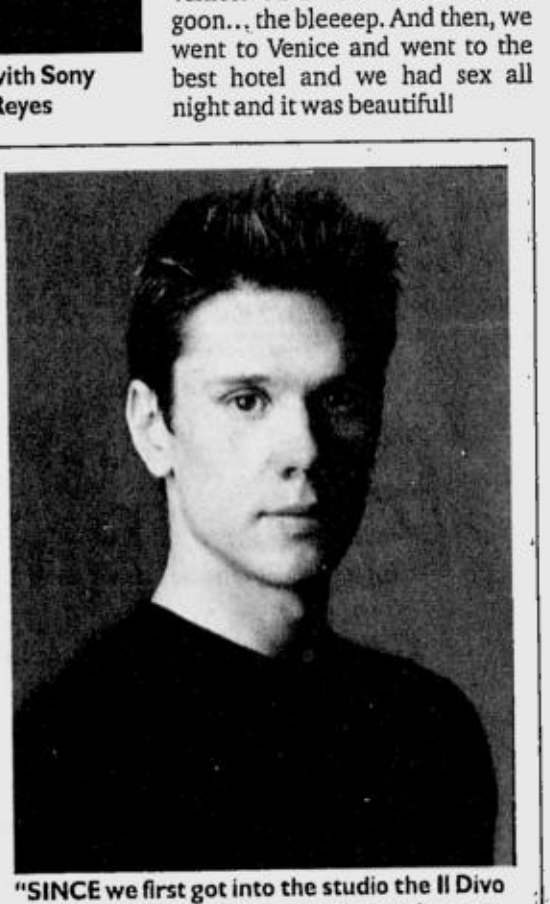
"IT REMINDS me of Queen without the guitars." –Urs, who used to be the head of the rock band Conspiracy before moving to Amsterdam to study voice. He was performing with the Netherlands Opera before joining Il Divo.



"THERE are only four of us—but the sound we make could be mistaken for a whole opera." –Carlos, *primo baritono* in La Traviata, The Barber of Seville, La Boheme and Madame Butterfly aside from lead roles in Les Miz, The Man from La Mancha and Beauty and the Beast



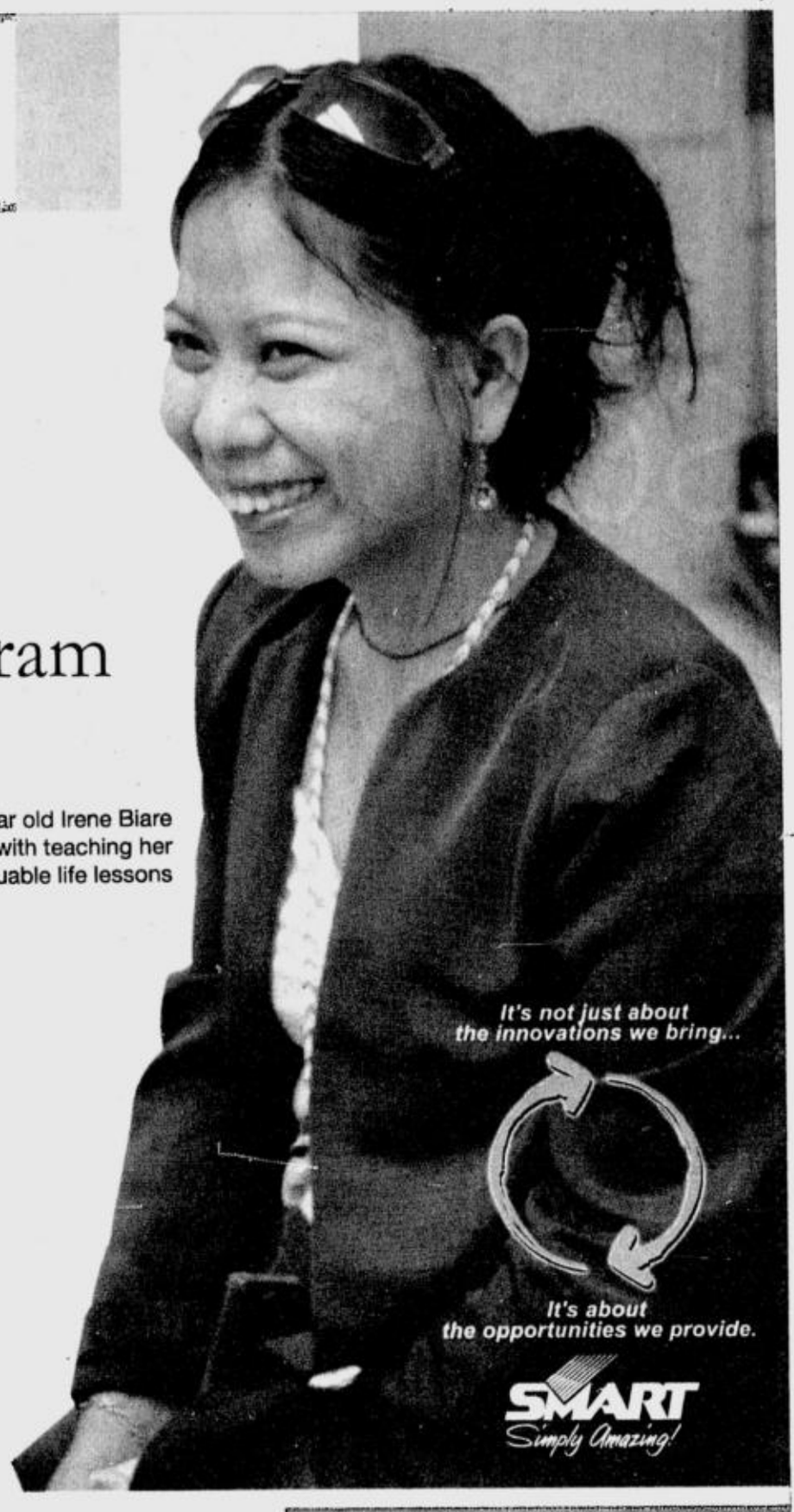
"THE IDEA of this band is like a woman: enchanting, unpredictable and never the same." –Seb, who is the only self-taught singer in the group. He is also an accomplished song writer who plays the guitar and the piano.



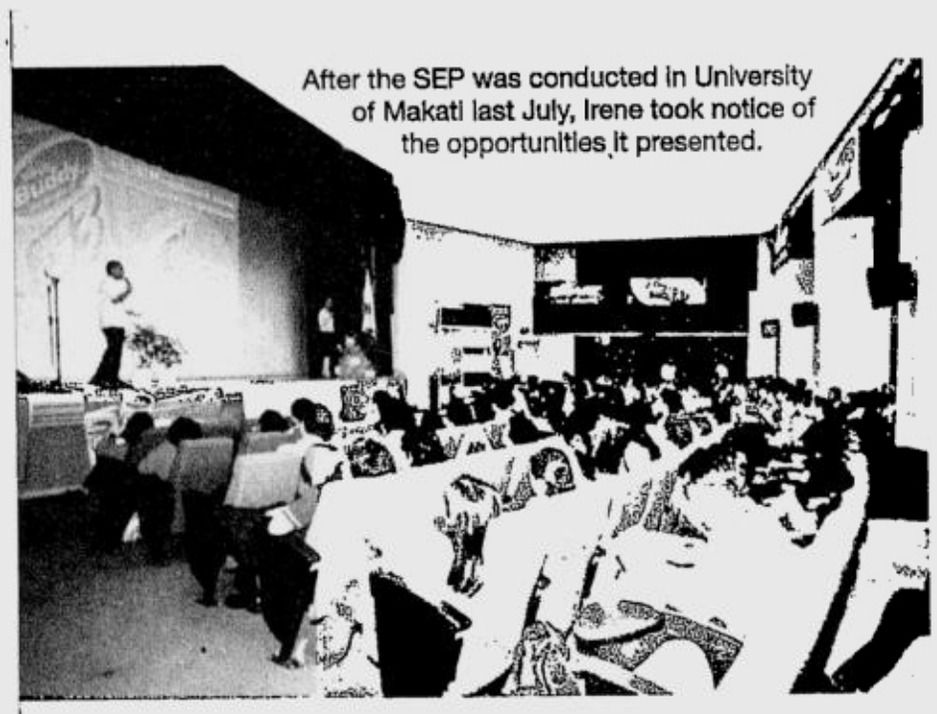
"SINCE we first got into the studio the Il Divo sound has been evolving and what we've now created is something completely new and extremely exciting." –David, who was last seen as Rodolfo in Baz Luhrman's production of Puccini's "La Boheme"

From School to the Real World

The SMART Entrepreneurial Program Leads the Way



26 year old Irene Biare credits the SEP with teaching her valuable life lessons



After the SEP was conducted in University of Makati last July, Irene took notice of the opportunities it presented.

"I've always been interested in business, so entrepreneurship really seemed attractive to me."

Graduation is a time most students look forward to. Though feelings of elation and excitement are there, emotions such as fear and trepidation have also been palpable in Filipino graduations of recent memory. With high unemployment and aggressive competition, one of the few alternatives left to fresh graduates is to enter into entrepreneurship. "I've always been interested in business, so entrepreneurship really seemed interesting to me," states 26-year old Irene Biare of Makati. Irene just graduated from the University of Makati, yet remarkably, isn't as fearful as other alumni of batch 2005. That, in large part, is due to the SMART Entrepreneurial Program (SEP).

Launched in 2004, the SEP's mission has been to provide alternative options to the increasing number of unemployed in the country. Going from school to school across the archipelago, the SEP teaches basic skills on how undergraduates and graduates may enter into business for themselves or to try entrepreneurship. Irene attended the SEP held at her school last year, and it helped open her eyes to what has turned out to be a profitable venture for her.

Speaking in a mix of Filipino and English, Irene could not stress enough how the SEP helped her and her family. A graduate of Computer Science at the University of Makati, Irene serves as breadwinner for their household. Her father, a painter, has been unemployed for some time now, and she realizes how hard it is to look for work for someone of his age. "The SEP teaches you things like 'How to Conquer Fear' and 'How to be a Good Entrepreneur' and it has really worked for me," says Irene. She took the skills taught by the SEP and is well on her way to becoming a SMART Dealer.

At present, Irene acts as a mobile SMART Money Loading Station, lending assistance to her retailers on the versatility of SMART Money. "I encourage these retailers who have signed with me (a lot of which are students) to use SMART Money, and I teach them the benefits that come with it. They usually aren't aware that it comes with free load, free text, and discounts at certain establishments," Irene explains. The job can take Irene from around her area in Pembo, Makati all the way to Marikina, but she isn't one to complain. "The SEP taught us 'How to Develop a Good Attitude Toward Business' so I've taken that to heart."

Though there may be some rough patches in life, Irene credits her SEP training as critical in keeping her level-headed. "My self-esteem was uplifted because of what we learned. Not all entrepreneurs can achieve success, but we have to learn to face all the obstacles thrown our way." With a positive attitude, hard work, and a nose for business, Irene Biare is well on her way to reaching her goals.

"The SEP taught us 'How to Develop a Good Attitude Toward Business' so I've taken that to heart."

Manny on Entrepreneurship

"Businesses do transform societies. They not only shape our physical and our virtual worlds, but also create new needs, new hopes, and new dreams."

-- Manuel V. Pangilinan,
PLDT and SMART Chairman

Irene recently graduated from the University of Makati

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In this Super! exclusive, former magazine editor Kitty Go reveals the philosophies of a fashionista who was a mother cobra in a previous life, among other things

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A little birdie told me that you're a big piece of chic

Gino de la Paz

PROLIFIC publishing paragon and—in her own words—nice bitch with a *pusong mamon*, Kitty Go took two weeks between ski runs in Megeve, France to write her first book "When Chic Hits The Fan." This fashion-heavy, stiletto-sharp and obscenely hilarious piece of fiction power-vomits at Manila's social-climbing carousel as well as the revolving door of not-smart *artistas* that call it home. This lady has balls the size of Jupiter and I bet she's on a lot of people's hitlists by now. Scratch that—I mean, ESPECIALLY now.

"Hmph! It's fiction and I cannot believe people would be so self-absorbed to think they orbit my Diptyque-scented universe! Well, maybe they can as long as they wear Viktor and Rolf..." Kitty trails off, perhaps referring to some card-carrying members of the NOCD (Not Our Class, Darling).

In this Super! exclusive ambush interview, Kitty reveals the philosophies of a wired-to-the-gills fashionista whose parents once thought she was screwing her beloved dogs. And my, her Chanel-coated claws are pretty pointed.

This book is about your straight-to-cable life in Philippine media. For those who may not be aware of your career—broadcasting social and celebrity gaffs to the country, can you describe yourself?

Number one, I have advice for anyone before they read this book. They have to first get a dictionary and look under letter "F" for the word "fiction." If you do not have a dictionary, you can get one at National and buy my book there at the same time.

I have been away from Philippine media for such a long time that I cannot recall the gaffs I have encountered. But the most fun I've had was on morning Tagalog radio with Deo Macalma on DZRH who likes to push my buttons and Arnold Clavio on DZBB who had a sign up for me in the studio that read "Speak Tagalog, please!" You want quick wit? These two can think faster than government officials can steal.

I didn't get to meet many stars personally because most couldn't stand my Pilates-developed guts but what I loved most was the day after shoots when my staff would herald me with the stories of misbehavior and the mangled use of the English language which William Safire of the New York Times would certainly have us crucified over. (Now THAT is fodder for another book)

I did a bit of research and found out "When Chic Hits the Fan" was actually the title of a tell-all article you wrote for INQUIRER's Sunday Lifestyle section in 2002. Tell me, is it possible for chic people to be genuinely happy?

Chic Hits the Fan was originally my Preview column with the byline The Honorable Lady Izza Tramp. I love that title which someone at Preview at that time thought of for me. I try to use it as much as I can—and this book was my biggest chance.

There is absolutely no way for chic people to be truly happy because the truly chic are usually intelligent. People who think are usually miserable because they constantly worry about how they can sharpen their wits further or in my case, that they will not be able to get snide remarks into conversations. Most of all, they worry about what to wear. Don't you? I do all the time even if it's between a white t-shirt and a whiter t-shirt.

My mother used to get mad at me for being sarcastic but now I have found my true calling and it ain't the church and charity, okay?

You said in your book that you "always felt that celebrities were a dime a dozen and wannabes were ten centavos, buy one take one." Who's in the bargain bin right now?

OOHH. How much time do you have? There are so many in the bargain bin we would need to dump them in Megamall. Okay—maybe we should talk about who is NOT. And this depends not on their popularity but how they interact with people.

Jolina is my favorite. I also like Mikee Cojuangco and Agot Isidro. I love Kuya Germs just because he is too Liberace for words and my husband proposed to me in front of his TV program so I have great memories.

Ate Vi, because she was so nice to me when I used to carry her shoes, costumes and sampaguita and Santo Niño into her dressing room. Her shoes are all in boxes, too. Like mine!! And now she's a fabulous mayor.

I also like Sharon Cuneta even if she is mad at me for making fun of her weight. She's really a megastar and a mega-mom. Something has to be said for celebrities who are really nice to 'the little people' who I dedicated the book to because I was one of them. Tito, Vic and Joey I really enjoyed working with—plus I saw one of them carrying Chaucer (I wonder

TONGUE/ 14

SCARRED and PROUD

501 DAY

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An all-out celebration of Levi's® 501® Day will be held on April 30, 2005 at four different locations. Davao welcomes Levi's® Day with popular homegrown bands: LOO'SID, SCANDOLLZ, Mayo, FOUR SIDED CIRCLES, and Manila's very own iconic Ely Buendia's Mongols. Cebu's launch features hot local bands UK LILLY, SQUALL, Pandora JR Kilat, and Cattski. The country's summer and strawberry capital Baguio hosts a number of acts that will literally heat things up: Stonefree, Reggae Mistress, and industry aces Imago and Sandwich. Manila's Eastwood event sees a rocking night with a slew of great bands. Up-and-coming acts like 7 Foot Jr, Menaya, Kiko Machine, Blue Ketchup, Milk N Money, and Narda will open for Hale, 6 Cycle Mind, Brownman Revival, the much anticipated Urbandub, and Sugarfree.

The countdown to 2005's much awaited Levi's® 501® Day begins today. Join Levi's® as it celebrates a day devoted to great rock music, total individuality, and the uniqueness of each person, as defined by the proud scars they wear on their skin and on their jeans

Part of the great celebration, on May 1, the Levi's® Patrol will be going around malls nationwide to some serious jeanspotting. The first 501 people spotted wearing original Levi's 501® jeans will receive an instant gift from Levi's®.

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Manila Mooning

caught by andy MACHE

www.dont-touch-my.com

I HAVE to admit I had never heard of Moony before. So when somebody told me that Moony would be at Club Halo I imagined some really funny contest. And when fun is involved, I'm the first one there. I was the first to get on the stage to reveal that part of my body that gets the least exposure to the sun. The place exploded with the screams of hundreds of eager fans. Hey, I am used to some adulation but at that point even I was overwhelmed—literally overwhelmed by three huge bouncers who carried me off the stage. It turned out that the people weren't screaming because of my exposure. They were welcoming this charming singer from Italy—Moony. Boy oh boy did I feel stupid. My VIP status saved me from getting seriously hurt and I was allowed to come back in to take some pictures as long as I would keep my pants on.

The fans knew all the words to every song Moony sang and the warm and humid air was filled with thousands of colorful butterflies. Temperature was well above the comfort level. Moony was so touched by the reception she was receiving that she had goosebumps on her arms for the duration of the show.

The next day I was invited to a full moon party. I didn't go. I'm not stupid to fall for the same trick twice.

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Manila Mooning

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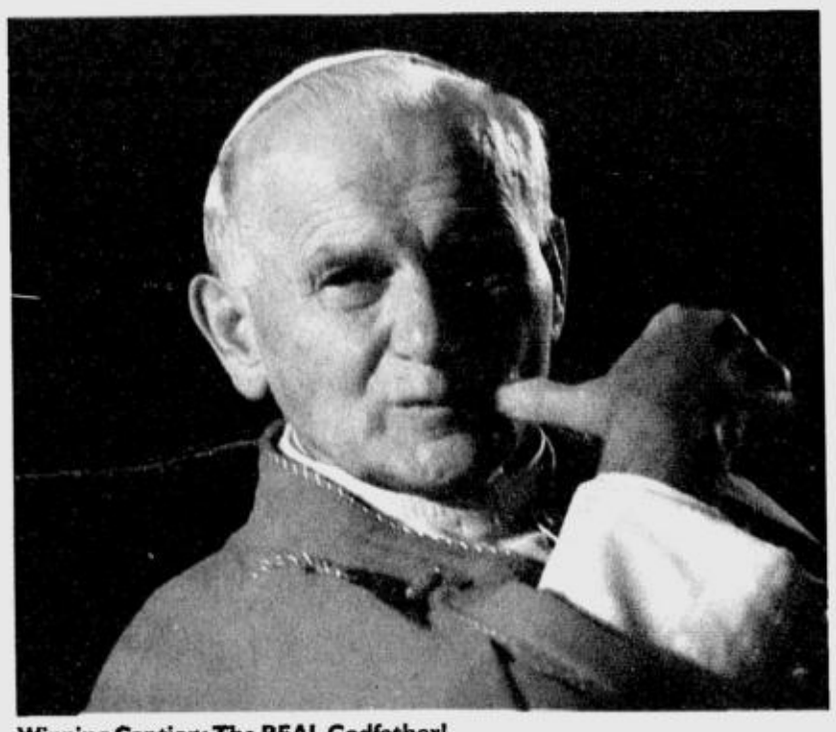
I ♥ SMART Simply Amazing!

Oh caption!, my caption!

By Tals Diaz and James Gabrillo

AFTER sifting through all the papal bull, we finally found a winner in Theresa Lariosa. Hallelujah! After a visit to the Baclaran church, you're now all set to call the INQUIRER Marketing Department at 897-8808 to claim your free trip to the Vatican! Kidding. But you do win Super Ferry travel certificates valid from now until May 14. Theresa, your prayers have been answered—so go forth and multiply, or something.



Winning Caption: The REAL Godfather!

- Theresa Lariosa

This week's challenge

Now on to more earthly news, from the Super Ferry to the Superstar. Looks like there's no *himala* for Nora (dis)Aunor even as she's pleaded not guilty in the U.S. Courts for possession of shabu. Our star is really high, huh? In fact, she's the highest of all!

And guess what, you can score too! A little trip down memory lane will do the trick. We suggest you watch "I Love You Mama, I Love You Papa" in Cinema One and get inspired. And then send your best captions to super@inquirer.com.ph.

Super!'s caption: Shabu Chic—*High na High si Ate Guy*

Artist 'scarred' for life

KIKO Escora celebrates 501 Day by wearing Limited Edition Levi's 501 "scarred jeans."

Celebrate 501 Day with Levi's at any of the four four simultaneous parties at Eastwood City, Libis, The Venue in Davao, Kaona Grill in Cebu and Nevada Square, Baguio tonight. Join the countdown from 9 p.m. onwards to May 1 or 501 Day (Get it?). Try to get one of only 100 of these scarred jeans or 50 limited edition scarred skirts made for the Philippine market. Call 889-9301 for more info on how to get those scars. Because scars can be a beautiful thing.

A little birdie told me that you're a big piece of chic

From page 11

if he read it or used it to hold his coffee).

My all time favorite has to be former president Joseph Estrada because he always makes me laugh plus he fed me and didn't make me wait. (Well, I did have to wait for FPJ to say goodbye at that time). Unlike GMA who only gave me snappy answers and Tang and tuna sandwiches that gave me the runs.

You used the word "connoisseurship" in your book and I think it's something that's sorely lacking in media right now. There are actors who can't act, writers who can't write and best-dressed people who wear Mango (on sale) for crying out loud. It's hard to find people who know what they're really talking about. What do you think?

Aside from connoisseurship, we also lack guts in media. And I have more than enough of that to donate to the Red Cross.

Well, I really think as our entire universe gets older, we not only get dumber but we also have taste that gets worse with every page you turn in magazines. And because people are getting dumber, you have no choice but to hire people who are equally dumb to communicate to them—it's really all about the dumb leading the dumb.

When it comes to fashion, I truly believe, the uglier and less chic the thing, the better it will sell. Why do you think Maria Luisa in Paris is so small and Barney's is so big? I rest my case.

I think the dilemma right now is that we have a bunch of kids who can look a certain part but aren't really like that. I don't want my generation to be remembered as "all style, no substance." To repurpose another one of your lines, it seems that young people now are indeed "capable of reading a book, albeit one lighter than a gram of coke."

There is nothing wrong with being remembered as having all style and no substance—at least someone remembers you! But yes, these days, possibly because of the speed and reach of media, people can only read books as light as a gram of coke. That's okay—'cause my book is like that. But Book Two will be heavier—50 grams of *champoy* because I have to appeal to a wider audience.

To go back to a pull quote from that infamous Inquirer article, "One of the life-changing things I realized after I left Preview is that movie stars wield more power than politicians." So what would happen if Lucy Torres became president?

Of course movie stars wield more power than politicians—not only in the Philippines. The US has had their share of actor-presidents and governors like the Terminator and Sonny Bono and even wrestlers.

I think if Lucy Torres ran for president she would win. Certainly! But then I'd do what I would have done if Loren Legarda was president—which is air-lift my dogs out of the Philippines—but I don't have to worry about that anymore because poor Sierra and Ching Ling (named after Sun Yat Sen's wife) have died of old age in Manila. But I still have two insane ones here who will soon be committed to the Taiwan Animal Mental Hospital if they don't kill me first.

Since this was the same woman who put your whole attitude into perspective with two succinct words ("Shit *siya*"), what kind of campaign do you think she'd have?

Holy chic! What a question... Do I look like Karl Rove? If I was a whitening product company I would totally sponsor her campaign all out from Aparri to Jolo. You must realize that aside from pale skin, she has one quality that I don't that will make her win the presidency-people love her. But people don't love me and I use self-tanner from Clarins.

As a columnist in the country's largest broadsheet, I have apparently pissed off a William Hung fan and he made that abundantly clear in an e-mail. How do you deal with critics?

You hate William Hung? *Kawawa naman* that guy! Well, he really is ugly but he had guts, which many people in the world don't.

I never answer hate mail. But I like getting them because that means a) they have read the whole piece and b) you elicited a reaction and that is the best thing about writing for a big paper. Also, hate mail gives you ideas for more columns.

Were you really a mother cobra in a previous life?

Well, funny that you should ask that because everyone thinks the snake in the Robinson's dressing rooms was a twin of my cousin but it was really me (in Alexander McQueen, of course) policing the dressing rooms for any fashion emergencies and crimes of fashion.

So what happens when chic finally hits the fan?

It happens to me almost everyday especially when I'm in Yohji because my sleeves get caught in the bus doors. When it happens then I'll just have to "Hide and Chic"... new frontiers.

When Chic Hits The Fan (P265) is available at National Bookstore or from loudmouthtwn@yahoo.com.tw.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Editor **Marge C. Enriquez**

ÉLAN

Copy Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
Guest Creative Director **Jo Chua**
Graphic Artist **Ernie M.N. Sambo**
Editorial Prod. Asst. **Joyce C. Abaño**

E-mail: pr_elan@inquirer.com.ph
pdi_elan@inquirer.com.ph

Celebrating the journey

Élan takes leave with good feelings and gratitude, like riding on a wave of change—a natural occurrence

By Marge C. Enriquez

ALL things must come to an end. This is a natural law that is often taken for granted. If we had more faith in this precept, we would view any form of termination—even death—as conformity to a mandate of the universe. What can happen will happen. To struggle against fate and disturb our equilibrium by hoping that situations were otherwise is a waste of mental energy.

Élan is taking leave. In the three years and four months that I've handled this section, I've considered the challenges as gifts. As in any sport, the degrees of difficulty increased every year, only to make the work all the more fun.

Human beings have long been conditioned to regard any closure with pessimism, and use it as a convenient excuse to dwell on the past. I view this "ending" as merely riding on a wave of change, a natural occurrence. Therefore, this final issue is a celebration, an opportunity for me to consolidate the insights that I've gained from this whole wonderful endeavor. It may be that you, dear reader, and I share similar experiences.

When I was much younger, the title of "editor," especially in the soft news beat, connoted power and glamour, plus preferential treatment and awe from the lifestyle circle. Real power is not obtained from position. Being a boss may seem like having power, but who likes working with a dictator, especially if peers are not impressed with your talent?

Real power

Many insist that respect is a right given to a position, and so people tend to demand that. However, respect is a responsibility, too, that needs to be understood in order to be deserved. I have learned the hard way that to earn respect, I have to give it first. Real power is selfless service and, in the context of relationships, the first step to having power is to appreciate everybody's role and each one's precious contribution in getting the task done. The test of the effective exercise of power is motivation.

Sometimes, there is a subtle desire for our work to be noticed or acknowledged by others. I have discovered that such a desire is a form of selfishness. It is also a mental trap: if the feedback is far from flattering, I am rendered vulnerable.

Every piece of work should be an offering that requires nothing in return.

One of my favorite uplifting quotes is from international speaker Anthony Strano, "My happiness doesn't come from other human beings evaluating me. My self-respect and dignity come from experiencing God who holds me to be precious. If one is valuable to Him, automatically one becomes valuable to others without seeking it."

Perks are as ephemeral as the job itself. I have seen friends in other fields who defined themselves by their positions and were discombobulated when they no longer held those positions. The test of inner security is when the privileges of the position are stripped away and one still manages to flash a regal smile. If something goes wrong, one does not collapse because he or she is kept together by core values.

Another agenda of an editor, or any leader for that matter, is responding to change. In today's world, everything is in a constant flux and chaos that upset plans or disrupt routines. Flexibility is strength.

In the past, I was mentally unprepared to deal with such arbitrary factors as rising production costs, the volatile economy and even human idiosyncracies. Eventually, I realized that these factors were "gifts" to make me face my own ego. One lesson in humility is that life does not conform to the wishes of ego. Satisfaction is derived from bringing about the change within my control; the rest is making sense out of the situation and accepting it.

Meanwhile, I am finishing a project that is bringing me yet another lesson. I would always strongly react every time I was told what to do. Instead of pointing the finger at the other person, I have found it best to instead examine if my reaction was coming from a less discernible ego problem. I have realized that in leadership, the priority is to maintain equanimity even to the point of giving up my own ideas. If I insist on my opinion or force it on others, they may respond out of fear, but will not work from the heart. There is no solid relationship if trust is lacking.

This is still part of a continuous learning, discovering more than what I think of myself and finding that this is the reason for the journey.

Gratitude

Élan's transformation since 2002 has been like the proverbial tortoise who made it to the finish line by being slow and sure. Its vision was to uphold classic journalism and enlighten the public with stories on the development of the human being. It tried to veer away from society and style-chronicling formula, and developed a quirky personality.

The articles on values formation made an enormous impact on readers, so much so that many would ask for copies since Élan wasn't online. Our editor in chief, **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**, and management have been supportive of Élan's endeavors. In one of our conversations, **LJM** agreed that the reportage of values should be mainstream.

Élan has been blessed with such beautiful company. **Emmie G. Velarde** (now Entertainment editor), as copy editor, has polished each article with attention and care. Although she's been on the top line of mastheads in various magazines and dailies, she has always maintained her humility, like a tree whose roots go deep into the earth and have a strong grip on the real sustenance. **Margie dela Vega**, the dedicated, efficient and honest assistant and accountant, and Genie Lagman from the production department have been with this section for a decade. **Lynett Villariba**, head of the art department, has been constantly bighearted in making sure that images were beautifully calibrated. Élan's sleek look is credited to the graphic design of **Jose Manuel "Jo" Chua**, elegantly executed by **Ernie Sambo**. As our guest creative director, Chua presents a look that may appear very casual but the effect is as closely calculated as a mathematical equation.

I'd also like to thank the contributing writers, photographers and news sources whose words and deeds inspire us as the natural expression of the best that lies within their souls.

More than just handsome

In this culture ruled by appearances, editors tend to seek out subjects on the basis of looks, pedigree and achievement—in that order. One of our last profiles is **Juan Elizalde**, who comes from the fourth generation of industrialists. We didn't seek out Juan just because he's cute. However, when I had dinner with him in his restaurant, Aria, I couldn't help but notice his finely chiseled features. (Even his *majordoma* in Boracay revealed to me that whenever her boss lay under the sun, she would admire his profile.) Known for being an OC, he would wipe little droplets of water that stained the table.

Of all the sons of **Fred Elizalde** from his first marriage to **Josine Loinaz**, it was Juan who showed interest in the family business and sought to make it grow. He was also instrumental in helping find a cure for his younger sister Sasha (Fred's daughter from his second marriage to the late **Joan Gatlin**).

Juan recalled that when Sasha was two years old, she fought a rare disease and had a liver transplant in the States. The doctors recommended that she undergo a treatment, consisting of chemotherapy and anti-rejection drugs. At that time there were no studies in the Philippines about this combination. Juan placed himself at his father's beck and call. He also contacted experts from all over the world.

The older Elizalde financed a study, using monkeys who underwent chemotherapy and anti-rejection drugs. The result was lethal. The Elizaldes convinced Sasha's doctors to forego chemotherapy at the eleventh hour.

"That was the most harrowing part of my life," recalled Juan. Thanks to that research, Sasha is turning 20 this August and hopes to join the family business.

Teddy Montelibano profiles Juan as the businessman who both continues to run the country's largest radio network, and also went on his own as a restaurateur with his own company, Boracay Entertainment Resources. As vice president for operations of Elizalde's Manila Broadcasting Company, Juan says he formulates, strategizes, designs plans, sets objectives and motivates people. "It's like being a in a war, and I'm the general."

For feedback, write to menriquez@inquirer.com.ph

Stepping out of giant shadows

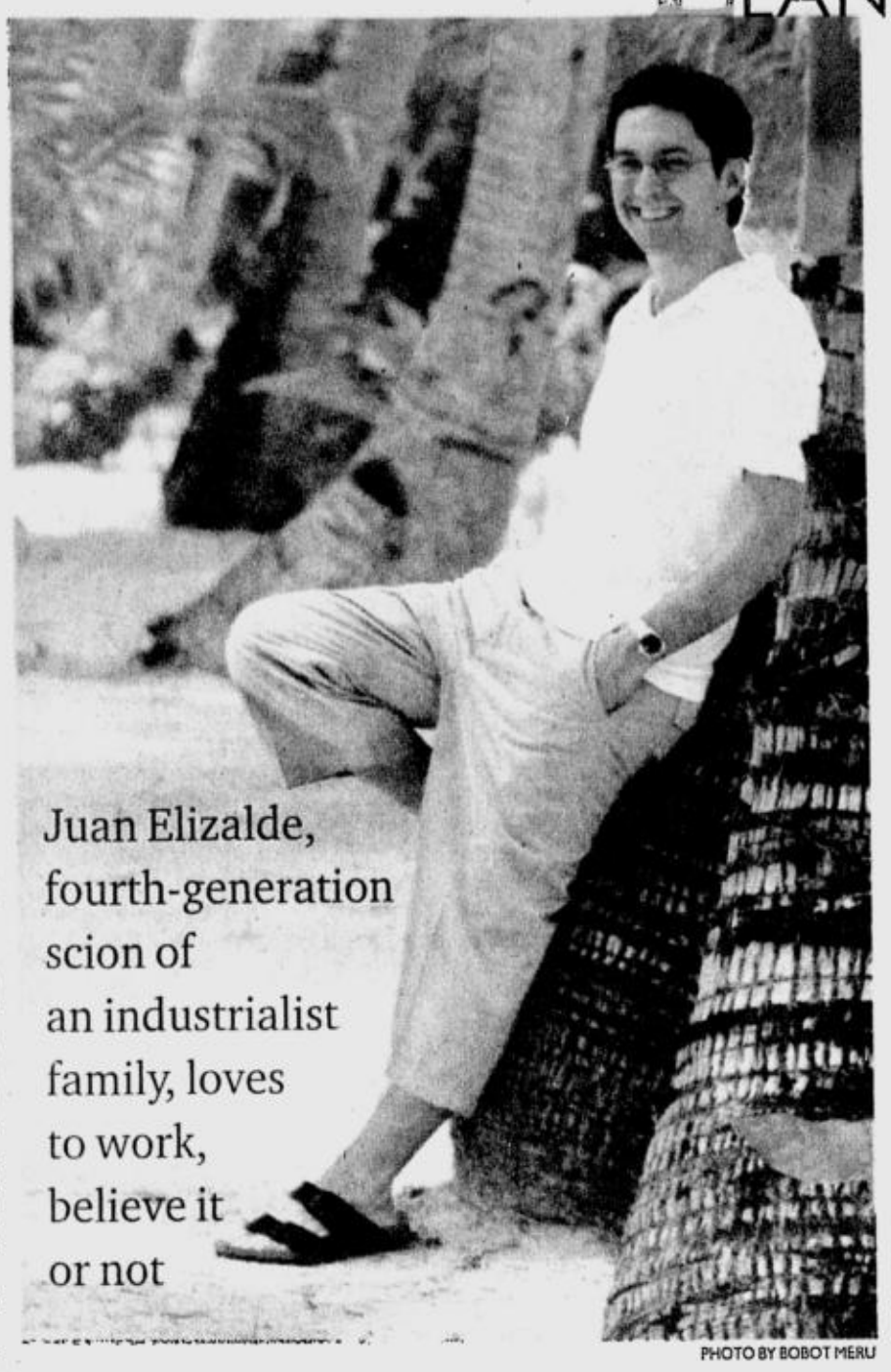


PHOTO BY BOBOT MERU

By Teodoro Y. Montelibano
Contributor

PERCEPTION and reality. Often, there's a gap separating the two.

An acquaintance made this comment when he learned I was interviewing Juan Elizalde for this article: "Doesn't he just party and drink all the time?"

The two had never even met.

I related this to Elizalde who just laughed and said: "I don't touch alcohol anymore. I used to drink, yes, and I guess people think all sorts of things about you especially if you're always out at night. But the truth is, I don't go out all that much anymore. Nowadays, I'm just too focused on moving forward in life."

And what a life it's been so far!

The second of four boys born to Fred Elizalde and the former Josine Pardo de Tavera Loinaz, the younger Elizalde was virtually raised by his mother and grandfather, the late and well-respected industrialist Don Manolo Elizalde, when his parents separated.

Elizalde has only fond memories of Don Manolo: "He was very supportive but strict. He had this aura about him. He was dignified and well-mannered. Everyone had great respect for him. He has influenced me in terms of hard work and dedication to make his businesses prosper."

Among his siblings, Elizalde alone, decided to work in the family business. Eldest brother Joaquin is an artist. Younger brother Freddie whom he says he's closest to is an adventurer currently in Sulawesi, Indonesia, building a boat to sail around the region. Youngest brother Javier, a computer whiz, resides in Australia.

Pushing 36 in May, Elizalde is vice president for operations of the Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC), the country's oldest and presently, largest number one AM/FM radio network which his grandfather and his granduncles bought in 1939 from the Heacocks, of the department store chain.

MBC's dzRH, then known as kzRH, was the Philippine radio station that broke the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Later, broadcasting from Corregidor, the station announced to a crestfallen country, the fall of Bataan in 1942.

Fourth generation

Elizalde belongs to the fourth generation of a family descended from Joaquin Elizalde, who started what became once one of the country's biggest conglomerates when he, along with an uncle, Juan Bautista Yrissary and financier Joaquin Ynchausti established "Ynchausti Y Cia" in 1854.

The partnership's original steamship and abaca businesses later became the conglomerate Elizalde & Co. Inc., which prospered under Elizalde's grandfather, Don Manolo, to include agriculture development and rhum (Tanduay Rhum), steel, mining, sugar production, insurance, floor wax and paint (YCO), armaments, radio broadcasting and, for a short time, television and newspaper publishing.

Fred, Elizalde's father, took over the radio broadcast company in the early 1970s. From a handful of seven or nine stations, he expanded its operations and in 1994, launched the One Nation, One Station satellite radio network project. This gave dzRH the widest reach—courtesy of the Indonesian satellite, Palapa-B—sending signals to 20 relay stations nationwide to cover 97 percent of the entire country with its broadcast programming.

Armed with a mass communications degree from Menlo College, USA, Elizalde came home in late 1993 to help his father launch and market the ambitious dzRH satellite radio network project.

"It had always been a tradition for family members to work in the family business," he said, "so it sort of came naturally for me to work for my father when I was done with college."

He was practically educated abroad all his life. After grade school at the International School (IS) in Manila, his father enrolled him and younger brother Freddie at Institut Le Rosey, Switzerland's oldest private boarding school and one of the most exclusive private education institutions in the world.

Its alumni include royalty (Prince Edward, Duke of Kent; Aga Khan IV, King Albert II of Belgium, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran; Prince Rainier of Monaco, Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia), scions of gilded families (the Rockefellers, Rothschilds, Patinos, Kadoories, Ferragamos, Gettys) and the children of celebrities like Sean Ono Lennon and the ill-fated Dodi Al-Fayed.

What a sight

"I was 15 when I went to Le Rosey," narrated Elizalde. "You should have seen it, man! During weekends there was a parade of Bentleys, Rolls Royces, Ferraris and other expensive vehicles that would come around to pick up the kids who were decked out in the latest, most expensive clothes like Versace, just for every day wear. It was really a sight to see."

After a year-and-a half in Le Rosey, he went to England for a year for his 0 levels, came home to finish high-school in IS, then he was off went to Menlo College in Atherton, California.

Despite being educated overseas, he had no problems working at MBC.

"The company's approach to business is very Western," Elizalde said. "This is because the chair—my father—was US-educated too."

He started as the chair's assistant in 1994 and slowly rose to assume his present position in MBC as vice president for operations. He is in charge of radio stations, daily operations, programming, manpower, events organization, the implementation of promotional and field campaign strategies.

Elizalde revealed that he was instrumental in reorganizing the networks (under MBC) into different network brands—the dzRH (AM) network; the YES-FM, HOT-FM and Love Radio networks; the Radyo Natin low-power FM community radio stations network; and the Aksyon Radyo AM network.

According to surveys conducted by the Radio Research Council (RRC), MBC radio stations currently enjoy lead ratings in both AM and FM categories. This has validated the hard work Elizalde had put into the company, and has earned for him the respect of the employees as well. "I'd like to think that since I started in 1993, I've been able to help modernize the network, bring it to the 21st century and to the forefront of excellence in the broadcasting. We're No. 1 in AM and No. 1 in FM in Metro Manila. We haven't had that rank for a long time," Elizalde said. "I'd like to believe that I was instrumental in making that happen. I'm in charge of operations and my objective is to make our stations rate and perform the best they can."

He is careful, though, not to take sole credit for MBC's stellar performance.

"We have very professional and capable people from our president to the respective department heads. All our managers are the best in the field and they've made it possible for our stations to excel and provide superior programming. And that kind of programming translates to No. 1 ratings," he said.

He doffs his hat to his dad, a Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Lifetime Award nominee, whom he looks up to.

"He's a good mentor. He taught me a lot and is one of the most creative people I know. He's guided me throughout my life and I have great respect for him," he said.

Work in Boracay

By all indications, father and son have a very good relationship. He was best man when his father wed prima ballerina Lisa Macuja in 2001 after the death of his second wife, Joan Gatlin.

His father never stood in the way when Elizalde decided to put up his own personal business endeavors using his own savings.

Holy Week of 2003, Elizalde and business partner Paolo Occhionero, opened a coffee shop, Café del Sol and an Italian restaurant, Aria, currently two of the most popular dining establishments in Boracay.

Buoyed by his successes, Elizalde is poised to launch other projects including a Chinese dimsum restaurant, a bakery and the first real supermarket to open on the island.

In spite of his successes, he is not one to laze around in the beach resting on his laurels

"Some people think I'm just having fun in Boracay. The reality is, I don't even have time to swim because I'm working all the time," he said.

Elizalde has a killer schedule: weekdays in Manila for MBC and weekends in Boracay to check on his restaurants and the progress of his other projects.

His gorgeous girlfriend Bianca Araneta is worried about his health. He has asthma, one reason why she was able to wean him from alcohol.

Definitely, the guy is on a roll.

"Things are looking up both with my work in MBC and the restaurant business in Boracay," he said, beaming. "The family corporation is already a well-established, mature business while the new businesses I've gone into in Boracay are start-ups. They've given me a chance to create something out of nothing and I enjoy that very much. Having my own business gives me a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment."

What else could he ask for?

Elizalde has an important, if not, challenging job in an industry he loves. Luck has smiled on his first private business efforts. He has the trust and confidence of his family and peers at work and the love of one of the country's most beautiful women.

Any plans of settling down soon?

"I'm getting there. I've been thinking about it, actually. But right now, my life is just so busy," he says. He is also cautious since he doesn't want to meet the same fate as his parents.

Settling down will come in due time. Having made steps out of the large shadow cast by his elders, Elizalde is just happy to savor his moment right now.

The Reina of Mandala Spa

PHOTO BY BOBOT MERU

LIKE some sea nymph in her private habitat, Karen Villarica Reina invites me to sit down on the wooden floor of her living quarters—an expanse of space looking out to the sea and open sky.

Reina is renting a sprawling cottage perched on the side of a hill in Diniwid cove set at the farthest point of Boracay's White Beach. Its owner, an Australian, is away for three months.

Built on a solid piece of rock jutting out to sea and just above the clear aquamarine sea waters of Boracay, the place is called Spider House.

"This is who I am," Reina says, her tanned face breaking into a smile. "What you see now—this is who I really am."

She's all alone in her rented quarters, with only Boogie, her possessive Rottweiler, to keep her company and protect her from intruders. Barefoot and looking slim in her all-black yoga tights, Reina looks marvelously alive and fit at 50, and particularly so, after spending eight months traveling and meditating in ashrams in India.

The journey begins

Her journey began in 1999 in the hills of Northern California. After 17 years of marriage, Reina and her husband decided to separate. She went to Harbin Hot Springs, in Lake County—a massage and wellness retreat located in a wine-growing region, two hours north of San Francisco.

There, amid 1,600 wooded acres of serene splendor, she basked in Harbin's stillness and found herself.

"For 17 years," she intimates, "I gave so much of my life, I didn't know myself anymore. I was always there for other people but I was never there for myself. I would fix [other people's] business problems, emotional problems, but never my own. I was miserable, plodding a day-to-day existence and in Harbin, I realized I needed time for my self."

She recuperated in Harbin and became whole again. Originally intending to stay three weeks, she stayed two months, going through the menu of massage and spa treatments and signing up for the watsu (water shiatsu) course at the School of Shiatsu and Massage's Watsu Institute.

Reina learned the therapeutic water-based bodywork treatment technique from watsu's founder himself, Harold Dull, an American who studied Zen Shiatsu in Japan and who found a home for his original creation in Harbin's hot spring-water pool.

She's gone back several times for more courses and today, she's probably the only person in Asia certified to conduct and teach watsu.

Sharing the experience

From Harbin, Reina came home to her 2.5 hectare property in Boracay where she's been staying since 1995. The land is hers now, since she and her husband divided their properties.

On high ground and away from the crowds of White Beach, she thought of putting up a similar sanctuary like Harbin.

"I went through what can be called healing and a strong sense of self-realization in Harbin," she relates, "and I thought, why not share the experience?"

Or, simply put, why not build a spa in Boracay? She had enough space in her property which was on an island considered one of the best holiday locations. In fact, the four cottages already standing amid the lush grounds were perfect for massage, scrub or wrap!

She called up her former business partner, Dieter Schrottmann who was then living in California and along with bodyworks and yoga instructor, Sino-American Mo-Ching Yip, she opened Mandala Spa in 2001.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would end up with a spa," says Reina, who stresses that she's a "no-maintenance person."

Her hair is short "so I don't need to take care of it." She wears no makeup or jewelry. Yet for 12 years (1982-1994), she and her ex-husband ran a major costume jewelry export business in the country.

Well-traveled life

Mandala Spa is a pristine sanctuary of serenity amid the noise and chaos of present-day Boracay Island. In a very real sense, Mandala is indeed, Reina's life refashioned from the ashes of her old one.

I first met Reina when she was in high school at the Assumption in Iloilo City. She had come from nearby Cebu and was enrolled as an interna by her folks who were leaving for a year-long tour of Europe. She came across as someone very spirited and with a mind of her own. Predictably, she only lasted a year-and-a-half with the Assumption *madres*.

Our paths didn't cross again until the late 1990s. In the interim, I would learn that she'd pack enough experience in her life to last a lifetime. She breezed through college in Cebu playing varsity volleyball; traveled afterwards to Europe and learned French in Cannes; worked and hitchhiked through the Continent using Madrid as her base; even tried being a housekeeper in Amsterdam before taking up hotel and restaurant management in Vieux Bois, in Geneva.

Back in the country, she had stints working with Carlos "Honeyboy" Palanca III in La Tondeña, and in the food and beverage departments of resorts like Tambuli in Mactan and the Cebu Country Club.

In early 1982, she met Antonio Reina on the tennis courts of the Cebu Tennis Club and within five months, they were wed in a civil ceremony in Hong Kong.

Her husband was from Milan and had been going around the country, fascinated with Philippine shells. He was also among the first foreigners to stumble upon Boracay, having frequented the place since 1979. He brought his young bride to the island for the first time in 1983.

"It was the serenity of the place, more than anything else, that had an

THE REINA/ J3

Lunch, simple... and perfect

Le Soufflé at Fernando's in Rockwell serves lamb grilled just right-pinkish and juicy

By Amando Doronila

ONE learns after a while that there's no need to scan more than two pages of the menu to select a good meal.

This was what happened when a group of friends decided to check out Le Soufflé at Fernando's, at Amorsolo Tower in Rockwell. Le Soufflé has expanded to several branches in Makati since it moved out of its original site in Greenbelt, and it is so much the better that one branch has its own menu and flavor different from that in other branches.

Right away, a few items on the à la carte menu caught my attention. There was grilled rack of lamb, and also small pieces of grilled sea bass with mashed potatoes and baby carrots, bathed in a creamy white sauce with a touch of white wine (ask for a description of the sauce).

One of us, a vegetarian, ordered filo pastry of tofu and vegetables with an Italian influence, smothered in cherry tomato sauce, and another ordered salmon filo pastry. There was nothing extraordinary about these choices, but then we didn't set out to find anything startling. Nonetheless, of the grills, the lamb won the day.

One asked for lamb chops and I ordered grilled rack of lamb—my favorite cut of lamb along with the leg (roast).

More lamb eaters

I was delighted to learn from the restaurant staff that more and more Filipinos are appreciating lamb.

Traditionally, Filipinos tend towards tender cuts of beef. The rack of lamb was grilled just right. I had asked that it be done to a pinkish color, and juicy. I don't like overcooked lamb, especially roast leg of lamb. The restaurant cooked my rack of lamb exactly how I wanted it. The meat was tender and juicy. It came with potatoes and was garnished with steamed vegetables, as well as a slice of goat cheese, which enhanced the lamb's flavor. The meat was covered with sauce made of rosemary jus. I would have wanted the sauce separate from the meat, although the rosemary jus was the perfect match for lamb. Too late, I didn't instruct the waiter not to pour the jus on the meat—my fault.

The secret of grilled lamb is that it should be left alone. Lamb should be tasted for its own sake. It is a more delicious meat than beef, more tender and with a sweetish taste. Moreover, lamb is easier and takes less time to cook. Lamb is best eaten when still hot. Spring is the best time to have succulent lamb. Because of the rain and grass in this season, spring leg of lamb tastes sweeter and the meat is more tender.

We had white wine for a start to tempt the palate. The white was 2003 Mouton Cadet from Bordeaux, and as the meal progressed we shifted to a red Mouton Cadet 2002, also from the estate of Baron Philippe de Rothschild in Bordeaux.

Pasta, too

I understand nearly all restaurants in Manila serve Australian or New Zealand lamb, since it is more easily available than French lamb.

I scanned the menu again and wandered to the pasta section. There was Pasta Jessie, signature creation of long-time Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sincioco. According to him, Pasta Jessie is the most popular dish in the Rockwell branch, and this claim was quickly confirmed by the fact that on that rather busy lunch day, the pasta was served at most of the tables. The sauce was made of prawns, scallops, fresh asparagus and sun-dried tomatoes.

I would have wanted to order the pasta, but for the fact that the rack of lamb was already a big meal in itself. Next time around, I wouldn't miss Jessie Pasta and I'm partial to non-creamy pasta. When I go to any Italian restaurant the first dish I examine is the pasta, followed by osso bucco, two dishes that are the tests of a good Italian restaurant, other than espresso coffee.

There's nothing to compare with the aroma of Italian coffee in the kitchen. The aroma drives out the smell of fish or stale food. If you have a good espresso maker, your kitchen will smell like an Italian bistro—an aroma that is much better to smell than that left by *adobo*.

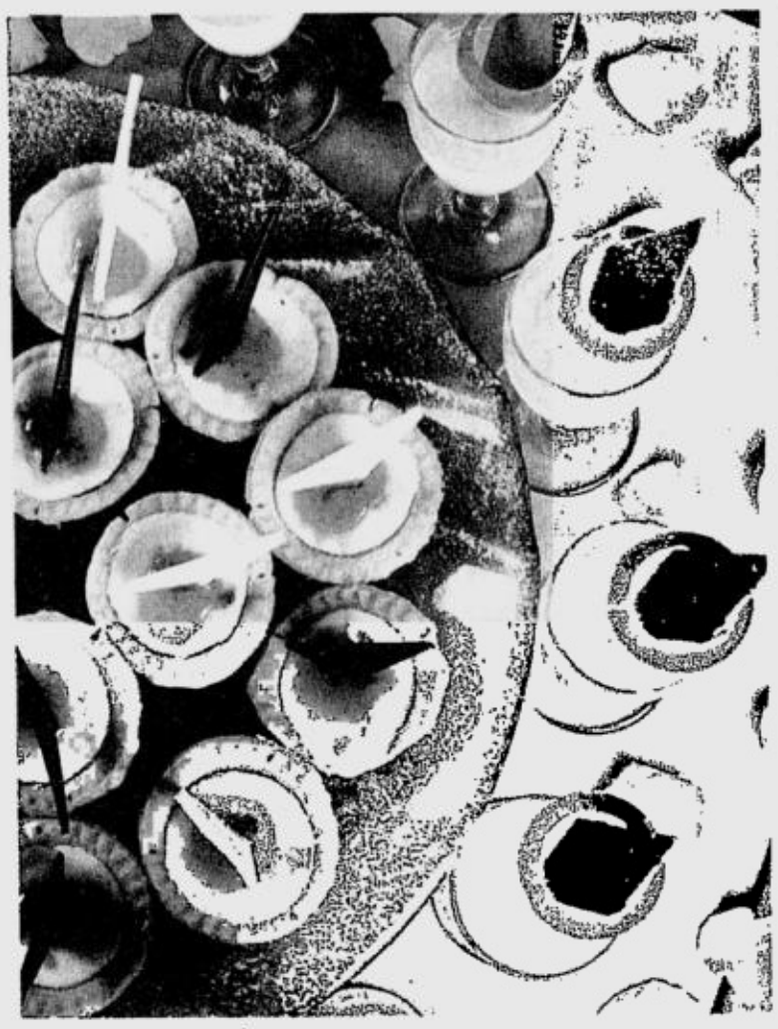
So, if after cooking *adobo*, the smell of boiled vinegar and garlic sticks to the kitchen wall, make some espresso coffee to overpower the *adobo* smell rather than burn incense. As for the lamb, the smell of roast lamb from the oven is very pleasant, and whets the appetite.

Chocolate fun—dooooo!!!

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

*"If any man has drunk a little too deeply from the cup of physical pleasure; if he has spent too much time at his desk that should have been spent asleep; if his fine spirits have become temporarily dulled; if he finds the air too damp, the minutes too slow, and the atmosphere too heavy to withstand; if he is obsessed by a fixed idea which bars him from any freedom of thought: if he is any of these poor creatures, we say, let him be given a good pint of amber-flavored chocolate... and marvels will be performed." —**Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826)***

*"Once in a while I say, 'Go for it' and I eat chocolate." —**Claudia Schiffer***



CHOCOLATE! Source of unparalleled (wholesome) pleasure for young and old alike. It then comes as no surprise that both young and old have been coming in droves to The Peninsula Manila's weekend chocolate buffet.

Here they find the finest chocolate in all shapes and forms—as confection, cake, drink, fondue, ice cream, mousse, pudding, soufflé, soufflé, syrup, sauce and topping!

In a romantic setting, with the dishes placed amid plump topiaries and petals of deep red roses, the whole setup is a thinly veiled seduction toward the dark side—to immerse oneself in the pleasure of that creamy, glistening, sweet and slightly bitter darkness that is perhaps the most widely-enjoyed substance on the planet.

This writer's preference is for the darker, slightly bitter variety. Thus, I first tried, and thoroughly enjoyed, the cherry chocolate cordial and the semi-bitter chocolate marquise. The chocolate drink came with a "stirrer" stick of bitter chocolate and was garnished with a white chocolate ring and a maraschino cherry; while the marquise were actually balls of dark chocolate with lemon crème filling, drizzled with a duo of raspberry jelly and mango sauce.

I then went for two of my favorite sweets—the French macaroons with pistachio filling, and the chocolate fudge pudding. The Peninsula Manila's versions did not disappoint—the chocolate macaroons were delicately crisp yet chewy, with a layer of heady pistachio cream. The fudge pudding, which came with a white chocolate sauce, was wonderfully heavy yet yielding, filling my mouth with its rich texture and flavor.

Young and old have been coming in droves to The Peninsula's weekend chocolate buffet

But there was more—a selection of the famous pralines from The Peninsula's Exclusivites, orange chocolate mousse in sherry glasses, small rolled chocolate crepes with dark and white chocolate mousse filling. To my palate, there were a few low points, like the triple chocolate gâteaux, which I found dry, and the milk chocolate terrine, which looked pretty but was nothing to write home about. But ah, the high points—the chocolate fondant with fudge topping (yes, more fudge!)—which was flavorful, intense. And the chocolate fondue, always a crowd-pleaser, The Peninsula's sauce being thick and full-bodied, holding up to the succulent, tartly sweet pineapple, bananas and strawberries.

To cap this dessert run, I had a serving of Double Dutch chocolate ice cream, topped with more shaved dark chocolate.

A word of caution to those attempting such a marathon: the experience can send one's pulse racing, chest heaving and head swooning—especially if you have the buffet with a bit of bubbly, as I did. Munching on salted peanuts between "courses" helped keep my palate sharp, and I was able to try 12 of the 16 chocolate concoctions before finally pushing my choco-logged body from the table.

Indeed, to partake of this buffet is to step away from the safety of moderation, toward planned excess. With all those chocolate preparations laid before you, each worthy of much more than a nibble, how can it be otherwise?

Tuscan cuisine under the Boracay sun

By Bobot Meru
Contributor

WHEN Italian traveler Gino Amodio discovered Boracay, he was instantly captivated by its white sand, pristine sea and endless horizon. In 1986, he made the decision to settle in the island and became one of its pioneering expats.

Born in Tuscany and raised in Central Italy, Amodio grew up with foodies and exceptional cooks. Realizing Boracay's tourism potential, he established Pizza Connection, whose signature specialty was grilled chicken in bamboo. It was quite a feat because at that time, there was no electricity on the island. Food was cooked on the beach with Petromax.

Later, he opened La Campanina, which served Italian cuisine using local products. Instead of parmesan or mozzarella, Amodio used *kesong puti* and made ricotta. He ran the restaurant with his Filipina wife and it became so successful, it was cited in Japanese and Korean travel books as well as in the definitive Lonely Planet guide.

When Amodio and his wife separated, he sold his shares and went into island sports.

One day, he met Paolo Ochhionero and Juan Elizalde who were opening a restaurant named Aria at The Mall of Boracay (a.k.a. D'Mall D'Boracay). Amodio saw it as another opportunity and decided to join them in the restaurant. Of course, he was made in charge of the food.

Aria's cuisine is modern Mediterranean Southern, says Amodio. The dishes have more vegetables and less meat, they're rich in olive oil with just a hint of cream and butter. And don't expect ham, osso buco or veal which are the ingredients in the North, he adds.

Aria has a reputation for being uncompromising in sourcing its ingredients. It has the best salads in Boracay because they only serve mostly organic vegetables. Their strawberry salad with curly lettuce, endives and cucumbers, drizzled with honey, balsamic vinegar and poppy seed dressing is a bestseller.

When it comes to pasta dishes, starch is the highlight. Pasta is made from durum semolina taboliere, which is the best flour, albeit, the most expensive in Italy.

"When it's cooked, it's al dente," says Amodio. The ham is from Parma, no less, using a special technology for curing to make it sweet.

From the beginning, the Mediavale di Offagna has been Aria's staple dish. The recipe, says Amodio, comes from ancient times. It is a mix of organic arugula, lentils, shaved parmesan, julienne of carrots and black olives.

One of Aria's popular dishes is the black fettuccini, whose dough is mixed with squid ink and then balanced with a rich crustacean bisque. A favorite appetizer is the Gran Misto Aria—an array of relishes, grilled red and green peppers, tomatoes topped with mozzarella and basil, *kalamata* (a very expensive olive), marinated zucchini and creamy eggplant with delicate slices of focaccia.

The focaccia bread is authentic Italian. It's brown and thin unlike the thick, fluffy ones served in Manila restaurants. It's flavored with crushed salt, rosemary and extra virgin, cold-pressed olive oil which, says Amodio, doesn't easily become acidic.

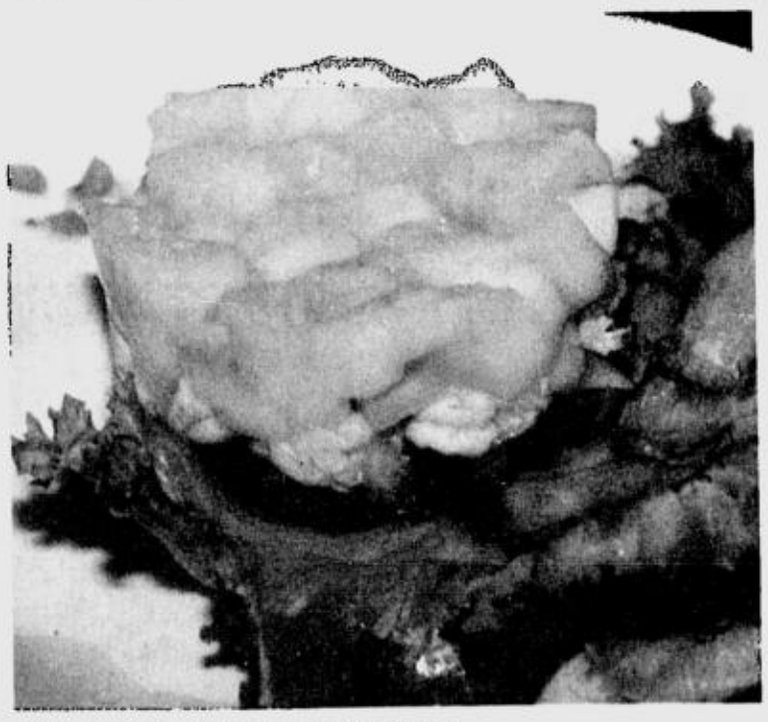
One of Amodio's creations for the summer is a salad of cold and dry ingredients—rich watermelon contrasting with the slight bitterness of *arugula*. The salad is chilled on ice, and then sprinkled with pine nuts. Taking advantage of the mango season, his panna cotta e amaretto is cream custard with a vanilla stick, slathered with caramelized mango puree and garnished with chocolate. On request is the panna cotta with strawberries spiked with liquor.

Aria also boasts of an authentic wood-fired oven built by an Italian chef who still makes them in Sicily. Amodio explains that a wood-fired oven can cook food in extremely high temperatures. It can bake a pizza in three minutes and leaves a wonderful fragrance.

With a menu that focuses on the refined flavors of its ingredients, Aria has become a favorite among islanders. In fact, sales grew by 200 percent in 2004 over the previous year.

"Once people discover the quality of our food, they spread the word," says Elizalde.

Aria is located at the beachfront, the Mall of Boracay. Tel. No. (036) 2885573.



ARIA makes the best salads in the island.

The Reina of Mandala Spa From page J2

impact on me," Reina recalls.

No Cokes

The only damper was that there were no chilled Coca Colas on the island. This frustrated the Reina couple no end, both being big Coke drinkers.

Finally, she recounts, "We decided to build a house with refrigerators running on kerosene so we can have cold Coke!"

In 1984, they started building on a 1.2 hectare property on elevated grounds in the southern part of White Beach. The property had been leased to them for 30 years.

In 1987, the owner decided to sell so they bought it, along with other small parcels nearby which in all, brought their landholdings in that part of the island to a total of 2.5 hectares.

In 1994, tired of "running after letters of credit, dealing with banks, buyers and deadlines," the Reinas sold their costume jewelry business to their partners and moved to Boracay permanently.

A change of residential location, however, was not enough to keep the couple together. After 17 years of marriage and three children, plus 12 years of running their export business, Reina had ran out of steam.

It was at this point that she went on her milestone trip to Harbin. When she emerged, her spirits were restored and she was ready for a new life.

Best spa

She and her partners in Mandala Spa started from scratch. "None of us knew anything about running a spa. It was our willingness to learn and our commitment to excellence that made it possible for us to be where we are now," Reina says.

Last year, Mandala Spa won the Inaugural Spa Asia Crystal awards for Best Rejuvenation Program, and its therapists were nominated as Best Spa Therapists.

Reina was on her way to India for a year-long sojourn when she was told the good news. She backtracked to Singapore and proudly receive the awards.

Two years after the spa opened, Reina had a dozen villas constructed on her property, which are apart from the spa area comprising of four private spa treatment villas, a warm-water watsu pool, a yoga room, a two-storey massage and sauna pavilion, but built on the same lush grounds. Mandala's resort villas are arguably the most luxurious accommodations in Boracay today.

Each villa is about a hundred square meters with teakwood floors and ceilings. The bathroom is made of marble and equipped with a custom-made bathtub and fixtures imported from Italy. Guests may choose to have their massage in the privacy of such luxurious quarters.

A restaurant called Prana, offers gourmet spa cuisine.

The journey continues

Reina and I are seated on the floor at Spider House, catching up with each other's lives. While we talk, we gaze out at Boracay's terrific seascape.

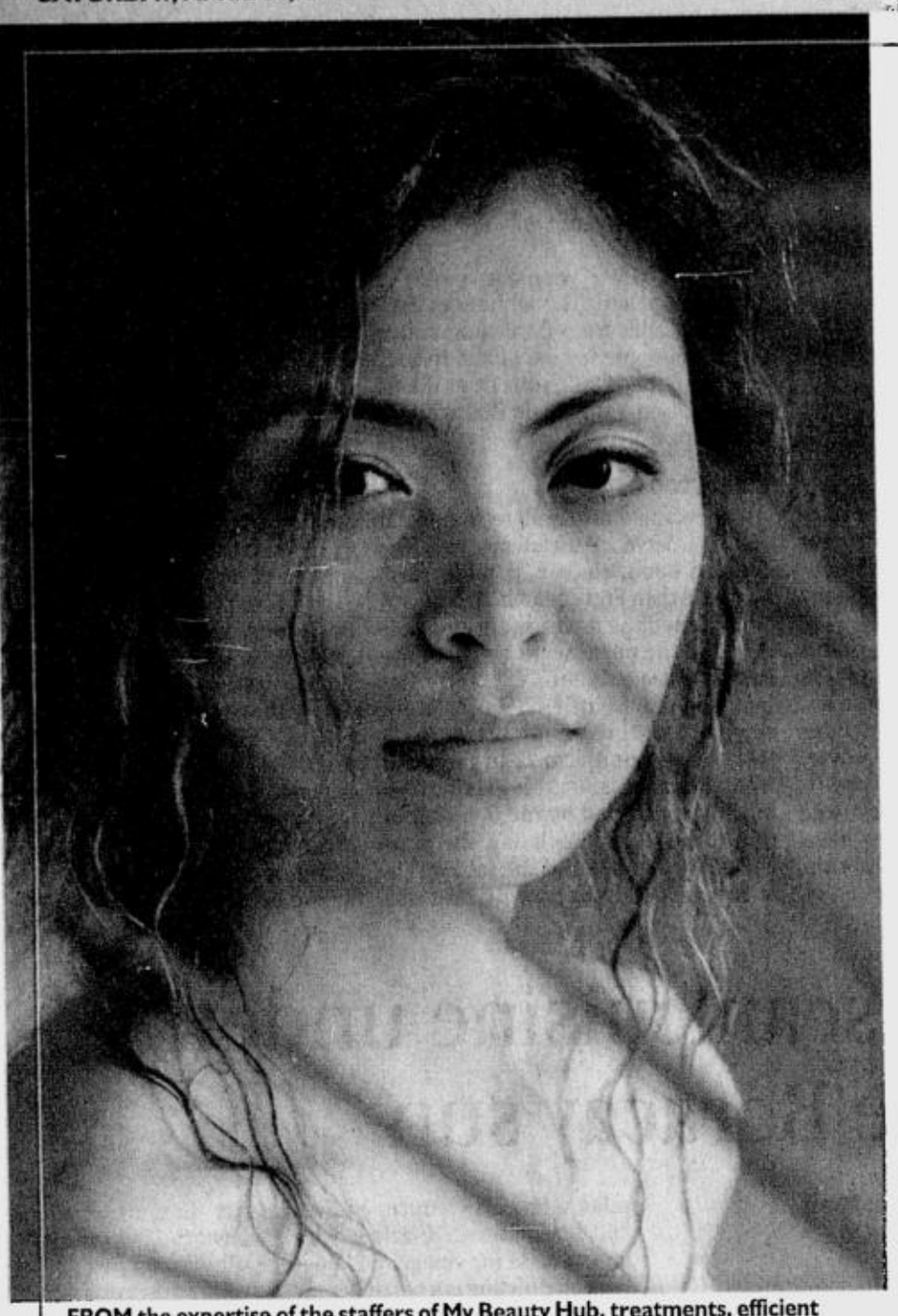
"You know," she begins, "I'm at this point in my life where I really don't need so much. I mean, look at this place. It has no walls, there's no TV, no Internet. I don't even own a decent pair of shoes. I realize there's really nothing you can buy or own [that will make you happy]. All you need is what's inside you. But to realize this, you have to start from scratch."

Did it take a trip to India to realize all this, I wondered aloud.

"India brought me face-to-face with my bare self. It made me ask: Who am I really? I realized I'm not anything I own; I'm not Mandala. India showed me there was more to life than the physical world. That there's a much deeper reason for us to be here. It internalized for me what it means to become a better person and the importance of being able to share that kind of person. It also made realize that you must have discipline to be able to move forward."

Move where?

"Towards a more enlightened existence," she said, smiling quietly. "My journey continues." ***Teodoro Y. Montelibano***



FROM the expertise of the staffers of My Beauty Hub, treatments, efficient products, and high-tech makeup deliver great results.

PHOTO BY Wig Tysmans
MODEL: Gorgette Peña
HAIR AND MAKEUP: Dennis Tan
MAKEUP: SHISEIDO AND PIED NUS

Instant rejuvenation

IF MIRIANA Salord looks younger than her 44 years, that's because French women know how to take care of themselves.

Salord, a professor in business and diplomatic French at the Alliance Française and married to the French Embassy's cultural attaché Philippe, has tried many luxury skin care brands. She considers Carita best-suited for her, and has been using its skin care products for 10 years now.

"I appreciate its anti-aging products for the eyes and face. They are the result of the latest cosmo-ceutical inroads. The products provide optimum performance and have a very gentle texture," she says.

Her morning skin care routine starts with Carita's Cleansing Beauty Emulsion, which is a facial and eye cleanser, followed by Comforting Beauty Lotion. "This gives me a delicious feeling of relaxation and well-being in the morning," she says.

She follows up with Carita's Radiance Wrinkle Beauty Fluid and swears by Eye Contour Micro Gel which revitalizes her tired eyes. She finishes off with Perfect Cream, which gives anti-aging energy for her face and throat and uses Revitalizing Cream for Hands which she says is rich but not oily.

When Salord discovered Carita on the shelf of My Beauty Hub (6750 Ayala Avenue, 7527933-37), it was like running into an old friend. "To me, visibility is very important," she says. "It's very rare to find Carita in foreign countries."

To jaded beauty editors, Carita's merits may sound hackneyed. But one look at Salord's bright and firm complexion is enough to spot the difference between a premium product and an expensive brand made famous by hype and advertising.

My Beauty Hub is promoting the premium Carita line and its facials recommended for women with the first signs of aging—wrinkles and fine lines. One session costs over P6,000.

Using a 10-minute ritual, makeup is removed. Then the face, neck and décolletage are massaged. This is followed by the application of Renovateur, Carita's secret since 1960.

The Renovateur is a surprising blend of sunflower seeds and essential oils that when combined with specific "sculpting" techniques, exfoliates, drains toxins and gives the face a healthy glow. Deep cleansing unclogs the pores and removes blackheads.

The skin is further purified with Pro-Lift, a machine that uses electrical impulses to stimulate the face's circulation, rehydrates skin and smoothens wrinkles. Anti-aging products are then manually massaged. For tired or puffy eyes, an eye contour is provided together with a lip mask.

You walk out wearing eye cream and day cream with sun protection.

What makes Carita facials different? For women of a certain age, the facials give instant rejuvenation. You walk out the door with skin feeling taut but well-moisturized. Wrinkles fade for a few days and you'll look fresh even after a hard day's work.

Function and form, Pink Poodle style

PHOTOS BY NELSON MATAWARAN

A FUNCTIONAL summer tote can be stylish with the use of bright orange and and Italian hardware

FASHIONISTAS are quick to fall in love with Pink Poodle, a new brand of fashion accessories for women of style who know what they need to make their lives work.

Pink Poodle offers world-class bags made in the Philippines. The name was derived from an old motel which had the sign of a pink poodle. The motel was a landmark on the Pacific Highway in Australia's Gold Coast. When the building was demolished, the local council decided to keep the pink poodle sign for posterity.

Pink Poodle is designed for individualistic women who do not rely on brands to define their self-esteem. They prefer function over form, but won't settle for anything less than the quality of a Hermes or Dior bag.

When Pink Poodle was introduced in Sydney, women in the chi-chi set forked over A$400 without batting an eyelash. In the Philippines, the bags are priced from P7,000 to P12,000.

Its initial offerings are structured open totes for work and travel dressed up with shiny Italian-plated hardware and user-friendly straps. They are handmade from local cow leather treated to perfection. In the works are bags made from alligator and ostrich skin.

Using the same threads as luxury brands like Hermes, the satchels come in various shapes and sizes to carry a sweater, magazines, even a laptop!

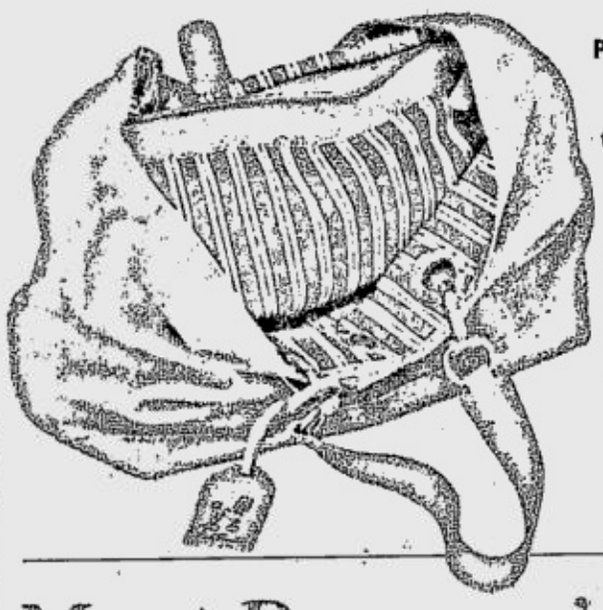
Pink Poodle believes in creating bags that can carry the load without looking clumsy or boring. They have no sharp corners or hard edges. Straps have grips that make them easy on the hands or shoulders. The bags come in a pink satin sack with the logo of a rhinestone-studded pink poodle.

Summer pickings include a blue tote made of soft cow leather and lined with sturdy cotton twill of a baroque pattern. Another tote has a cotton silk lining with bold green stripes. Larger bags feature pouchettes to contain wallets, keys and other important items.

The bags come in different colors to complement any outfit. Pinks, greens and blues are the new neutrals so they're supposed to go with any color.

The bag also comes in white, so you can trade in your Chanel for a Pink Poodle.

As an after-sales service, Pink Poodle cleans bags and provides beeswax to keep the leather soft and looking like new.



PINK Poodle pays equal attention to the inside of the bag. The bags are lined with sturdy printed cotton and big tote comes with a pouch.

FOR DETAILS CALL 0926-7276399
OR E-MAIL PINKYDOG@ INFO.COM.PH

Meet Boracay's Golden Girl

BIANCA Araneta, model and Boracay's Golden Girl, cradles a stray kitten which she found in D'Mall D'Boracay.

She has rescued the kitten from a bunch of mean little boys and is looking for an adoptive mother for the poor thing.

Unknown to many, Bianca has a soft spot for animals. Finding shelter for orphaned dogs and cats has become an avocation.

Bianca also does charity work for street kids and established Little Miracles Foundation, which organizes special events for orphans and poor children.

One Christmas, she hosted 100 children and brought them to see "The World on Ice" at the Araneta Coliseum. She rented the buses to transport them, convinced a fast-food company to sponsor their meals, and Diether Ocampo to help baby sit.

It was while working on her charities that she got to know her current beau Juan Elizalde.

Juan and Bianca first met in Cebu during the 1999 Ad Congress. Flying back to Manila, the two sat together on the plane but nothing came of it because at that time, they were involved with other people.

In 2002, both were unattached. Juan invited her to have tea at a deluxe hotel. Bianca casually asked Juan if he knew of a place where she could hold one of her charity projects. He recommended Star City.

Bianca thought it was a wonderful idea, but she didn't know the owners.

Juan said his family owned it. That was even better.

Eventually, Star City hosted Bianca's orphans, treating them to free rides in the theme park.

Shortly after this, the couple started to date.

"At the beginning, we were both extremely different personalities," recalls Bianca.

Juan enjoyed socializing and was frequently exposed to the excesses of the party scene. Bianca would dance all night but she didn't allow herself to be influenced by the company she kept.

They agreed to date each other exclusively but without compromising their real selves.

Every week Juan would fly to Boracay to look after the family businesses. Bianca would go with him. Soon, she became a familiar fixture in the island and was even dubbed "Queen of Boracay."

PHOTO BY BOBOT MERU

BIANCA has the ability to positively respond to people and situations.

Contrary to her image of a bikini-clad "It" Girl who spends days in the sun, Bianca kept herself bust in the island. She helped market Juan's restaurant, Aria.

Bianca majored in Interdisciplinary Studies at De La Salle's College of St. Benilde, took a course in multi-media design, bought a Mac and learned PhotoShop. She enrolled in graphic design in another school and studied photography on her own.

Armed with these basic skills, Bianca took food shots, did the print collaterals, prepared the press kits and ad layouts for Aria.

Her print ad in Seair magazine was so effective, customers head to the restaurant as soon as they landed. She invited her press contacts to dine in Aria and this gave the place a lot of the media mileage.

Bianca and her brother also organized a wakeboard event in front of Aria and was said to have brought in record sales.

With all that food tasting and entertaining, how does Bianca manage to look great in a bikini?

This puzzles Bianca, too.

"I eat a lot when I'm in Boracay. I have a major sweet tooth. I keep chocolates and cookies under my bed," she said.

BIANCA is Juan Elizalde's best marketer and PR-girlfriend

Oleg Stepanov, artist

HAIRDRESSERS who are real artists, too, are few and far between. One of the most exacting in this field is Oleg Stepanov, the guest foreign stylist who has been training Essensuals' Toni & Guy.

Oleg was born in Latvia and learned his basics there. To him, nothing beats the Vidal Sassoon Academy. Sassoon revolutionized hairdressing in introducing the fuss-free, easy-to-maintain geometric hairstyle.

"He was the first to impart the idea and understanding of a wash-and-wear haircut by paying attention to details like evaluation, tension and sectioning," says Oleg.

Any seasoned hairdresser can spot Sassoon's influence in Oleg's haircuts—distinct hair design, cutting on various planes, and creating wedges in the ends to give short hair more shape.

In Toni & Guy London, Oleg learned the refinements of textured hair, which is the salon's trademark. He says textured hair is suitable for Asians: "There are no strong or emphatic lines. The hair is softened through sectioning and layering in various lengths that's all mixed together."

Oleg worked in Melbourne, although he found the city too conservative for his progressive mind. He also worked in San Francisco and Germany.

Of Filipinos, he says there's no difference between their hair structure and those of people in the West. However, he observes that Filipinos are more conservative, especially in their choice of hair color. "They prefer shades that are close to the natural hair color. Ladies tend to be afraid of very short hairstyles, unlike elsewhere in the world. The ideal here is long, dark, glossy hair," he says.

He also observes that men are deemed as judges of women's hairstyles—which explains why women tend to seek their partner's approval. Unlike in Europe, women are more independent-minded in their styles.

Before he does a haircut, Oleg studies the client's skin tone and facial shape, and asks his or her preferences. Instinctively, he sculpts the hair into a work of art. Oleg prefers to cut and color the hairstyle himself because, he says, sometimes the colorist may not understand his concept and proceed to ruin his design.

Asked how he reached the top of the heap, Oleg modestly replies: "I like what I'm doing. While I teach, I'm still studying. I'm not afraid. Fashion keeps changing and there are new things to learn with the advancement of technology and introduction of product innovations. It would be the worse day of my life if I say I know everything already."

PHOTO BY FRANK HOEFSMIT

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SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 2, NUMBER 11

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- Try a different sport — Page 6
- Shirley's Pets
- The Lunch Box — Page 7

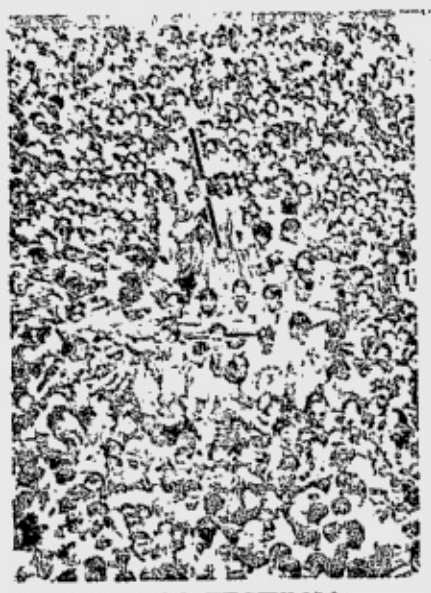
FIESTA FEVER!

Plus, our very first Banderitas Awards

HERE comes the merry month of May! For many people in the towns and provinces, this is the time for cooking lots of mouth-watering dishes, making colorful costumes and decorations, and sharpening their skills for parades and presentations.

Perhaps there is no town or barrio in the Philippines that doesn't celebrate its own fiesta, usually in honor of a patron saint or to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. Each celebration is so unique and interesting, that it's a pity we can't visit them all. So we at Junior Inquirer thought—why not go fiesta-hopping? Better yet, why not give out our very own awards to recognize the uniqueness of these festivals? We named our awards "The Banderitas," which are the colorful flaglets that you see in every town fiesta.

And so, prrrresenting (drumroll please)...our very first Banderitas Awardees!



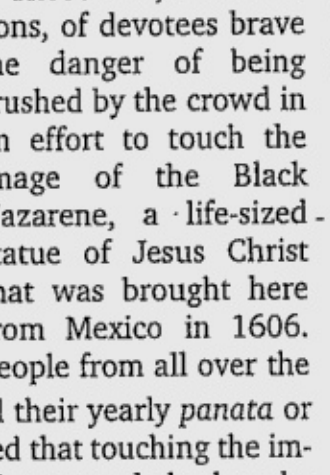
NAZARENO FESTIVAL PDI PHOTO

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD

Feast of the Black Nazarene
January 9
Quiapo, Manila

Thousands, if not millions, of devotees brave the danger of being crushed by the crowd in an effort to touch the image of the Black Nazarene, a life-sized statue of Jesus Christ that was brought here from Mexico in 1606. People from all over the country come to Manila to fulfill their yearly *panata* or vow to the Nazareno. It is believed that touching the image will heal believers of their diseases or help them be granted a miracle.

MEN IN BLACK AWARD
Ati-Atihan Festival
3rd week of January
Kalibo, Aklan



ATI-ATIHAN PDI PHOTO

Who says only Will Smith looks good in black? At the Ati-Atihan Festival, people smear their faces and bodies with soot, put on tribal costumes, and dance in the streets shouting, "Hala Bira!" (Strike a blow!) and "Viva Sto Niño!" The air is filled with sounds of drumbeats and whistles.

The festival was originally a celebration of friendship between the Aetas in Kalibo and Malay visitors from Borneo. Later on, it also became a feast honoring Sto. Niño or the Child Jesus.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ AWARD
Baguio Flower Festival
whole month of February
Baguio City

PANAGBENGA PDI PHOTO

Baguio's fresh blossoms become colorful attractions for bees as they are for tourists during the Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival. During Panagbenga (a Kankanaey tribe word which means "a season for blossoming, a time for flowering"), people don flower-designed costumes and dance on the streets. Different groups of people come up with creative floats using fresh flowers, resulting in a spectacular parade.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ANIMAL
The Carabao Festival
May 14
Pulilan, Bulacan; San Isidro, Nueva Ecija; and Angono, Rizal

The carabao, said to be the hardest working animal, is the star of this festival. Farmers brush the carabaos' skin until it is shiny then adorn the carabaos with ribbons. The carabaos, led by their owners, parade down the streets until they reach the church. There, Guyito's relatives kneel to be blessed. On the second day, the carabaos compete in a friendly race. The feast is celebrated in honor of San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers.

CARABAO FESTIVAL PDI PHOTO

"KIPING" THE LOVE ALIVE AWARD
Pahiyas Festival
May 11-15
Lucban and Sariaya, Quezon

Kiping or brightly colored rice wafers adorn the houses of Lucban during the Pahiyas festival. Pahiyas, or "precious offering," is also celebrated in honor of San Isidro Labrador.

PAHIYAS PDI PHOTO

In the olden days, farmers in Lucban would bring their harvest to the church to be blessed by the parish priest. Now, people decorate their houses with their best produce of fruits and vegetables, and *kiping*. The image of San Isidro is paraded around town, assuring the farmers of a bountiful harvest in the future.

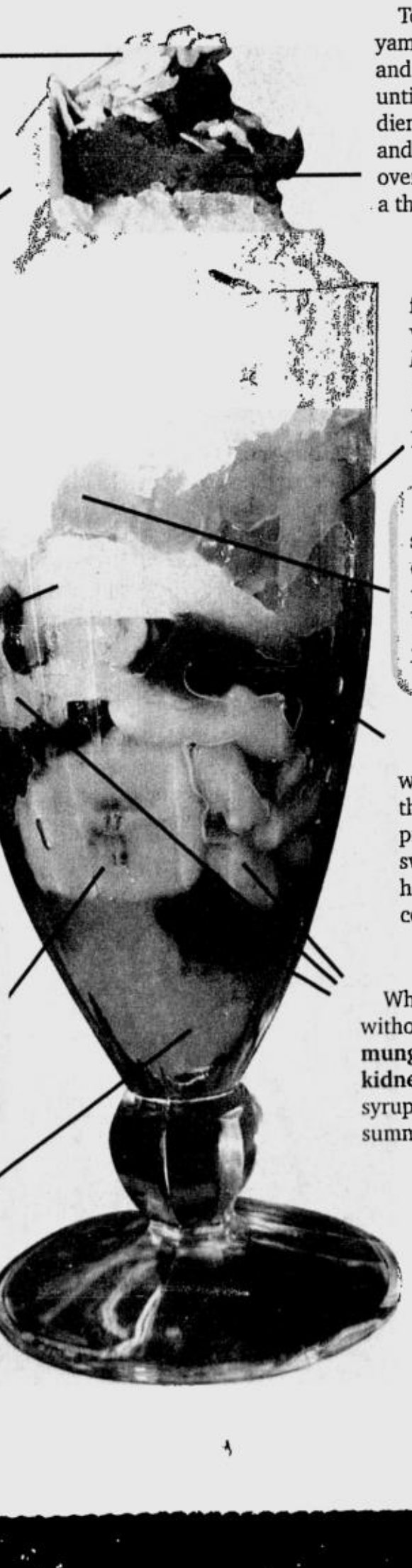
OBANDO FESTIVAL PDI PHOTO

BEST IN CHOREOGRAPHY
Obando Festival
May 17 to 19
Obando, Bulacan

Couples who want to have children go to Obando to

Fiesta Fever!/ p. 8

WHAT'S IN A HALO-HALO?



Pinipig is immature glutinous rice (*murang malagkit*) that is pounded into light flakes. After toasting, it is then sprinkled on top of desserts like this halo-halo. Yum!

Leche flan is made from egg yolks, condensed milk, evaporated milk, and vanilla. The mixture is steamed in a tin pan lined with caramelized sugar.

Macapuno comes from a special kind of coconut the insides of which is filled with coconut meat instead of water. Farms that grow macapuno do not have any regular coconuts nearby, otherwise, the harvest will be ruined.

Another riddle: *Binuksan ko ang kurtina, lumabas ang prinsesa* (As the curtains parted, a princess came out). From the Musaceae family, all welcome the **banana**!

Nata de coco is grown from coconut water and bacteria. The bacteria takes coco water's organic substances and turns them into cellulose.

To make **ube halaya**, purple yam is cleaned, peeled, sliced, and then ground over and over until fine. Mixed with other ingredients like sugar, coconut milk and condensed milk, it is cooked over a low fire until it forms into a thick paste.

There are many riddles with fruity answers. Can you guess which *halo* this is? *Baboy ko sa Mariveles, balahibo'y matutulis* (My pig from Mariveles has fur that prickles). The answer is **langka** or jack fruit!

Sago is made from cassava starch. First it is soaked overnight, then shaken continuously until it forms into little balls. They are baked, and later dried at a lower temperature.

You might deny liking seaweed but **gulaman** is exactly that—just dehydrated and processed. Sold in bars, it is sweetened after dissolving in hot water. When it cools, it congeals into gelatin.

What would halo-halo be without any legumes? **Red munggo** , **garbanzos** and **kidney beans** cooked in syrup are must-haves for this summer treat.

INGREDIENTS COURTESY OF SANDOSENANG HALO, LANDMARK, MAKATI
PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

Junior INQUIRER Special

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Page Designer **ERNIE SAMBO**
Acting Editor **ELINE SANTOS**
Editorial Assistant **CHRISTINE A. PAITA**
Illustrator **STEPHANIE BRAVO**
Advertising Sales Manager **KENNY NUYDA**

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2004 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Speak to the World

JUNIOR Inquirer won the Outstanding Children's Newspaper/Section award from the United Nations Children's Fund and Philippine Press Institute. It's our fourth time in a row to win this award, which makes winning even more thrilling!

What makes us a winner is you.

When your essays see print in the "Journal Pages," or when your short story gets published in "For or By Kids," then you make us your paper.

Your voice speaking through us makes us a winner, whether it's a short quote in "Think out Loud" or a comment on current issues in "Straight from JI Readers."

This year's Outstanding Child Writer is 16-year-old Raiza Katrina Abubakar, who wrote "Who's Different?"—an essay about her experience of being a Muslim in a Catholic-dominated environment. It was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Youngblood section last June 2004.

Raiza's article hits those of us who may be guilty of thinking we have the monopoly on loving God and being good. Her words make readers think about their biases against those with a different religion.

If you have something to say, then let the whole world hear it. Whether it's through a blog, the school paper, or a national broadsheet, your voice has value. You might have a valuable nugget of wisdom that can benefit people.

Write your ideas. Write your opinions. Write about your experience of life. Then send them out to be heard.

Maybe next year, you'll be the Outstanding Child Writer. Previous writers in our Journal Pages have won the award. But, prize or no prize, letting your opinion be heard is already an accomplishment in itself.

Use your paper. JUNIOR INQUIRER is your platform to speak to the world.

Life with No TV

By Julia Lagonera
Miriam College
Grade School, Quezon City

WHAT would you do if you found out that you had to go through the whole summer vacation and the first quarter of school with no television—and that it was your fault it happened in the first place?

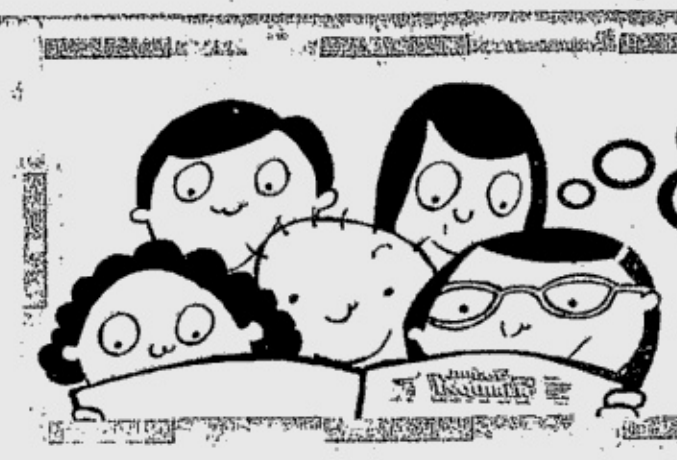
Well, that's exactly what happened to me one summer. To make a long and embarrassing story short, I plugged our big-screen TV in a 220 outlet, when it was a 110. Since I did this so early in the morning on the first day—yes, the first day—of vacation, no one was up. The moment my sisters got out of bed, they ran downstairs and turned on the TV. Nothing happened. Everyone was so upset, except my Nanay and my Tita.

My Nanay convinced my Tatay not to fix the

Life with no TV/ p. 7

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

Remembering our Lolas

THANK you very much for mentioning the comfort women in your edition focused on Japanese cultural invasion (Feb. 26, 2005). We are very happy with JI keeping a balanced and complete presentation of how the Japanese had influenced the lives of many Filipinos. The *lolas*, the former comfort women, are very grateful you had not forgotten them. Please note that Filipinos and the Japanese people are now working to achieve justice for them.

Once again, thank you and more power to you and your young readers.

CARLA MORTEL
Public Information Officer
Lila-Pilipina, an organization of former comfort women in the Philippines

Thanks for the Tees!

IN summer 2004, you published our articles "An Unforgettable Day" (by Ana Nicole Galang) and "On a Rainy Day" (by Miguel Antonio Galang). You were true to your word that if our article gets published, you will send us each a JUNIOR INQUIRER T-shirt. Attached is our picture happily wearing the JI T-shirts. Thank you!

ANA NICOLE GALANG
Grade 4, Miriam College Grade School
MIGUEL ANTONIO GALANG
Grade 2, Ateneo Grade School

Paper Power

WHEN my son Justin was featured in JUNIOR INQUIRER last Jan. 29 because of his signature campaign for Haribon, all his teachers, principal and classmates were so proud of him that they posted the article in all of their bulletin boards. His name was printed on a blackboard displayed at the entrance of Claret School. This was followed by an interview by "Mommy Academy" of ABC 5.

The chain of events was really very overwhelming for my son, it greatly boosted his morale and he gained self-confidence. I would like to thank you all for being God's instruments in helping my son realize the value of just a small piece of paper.

Again, my heartfelt gratitude. I wish you success in all your undertakings.

MARITEL G. GARCIA
Makati City

Animal cruelty not funny

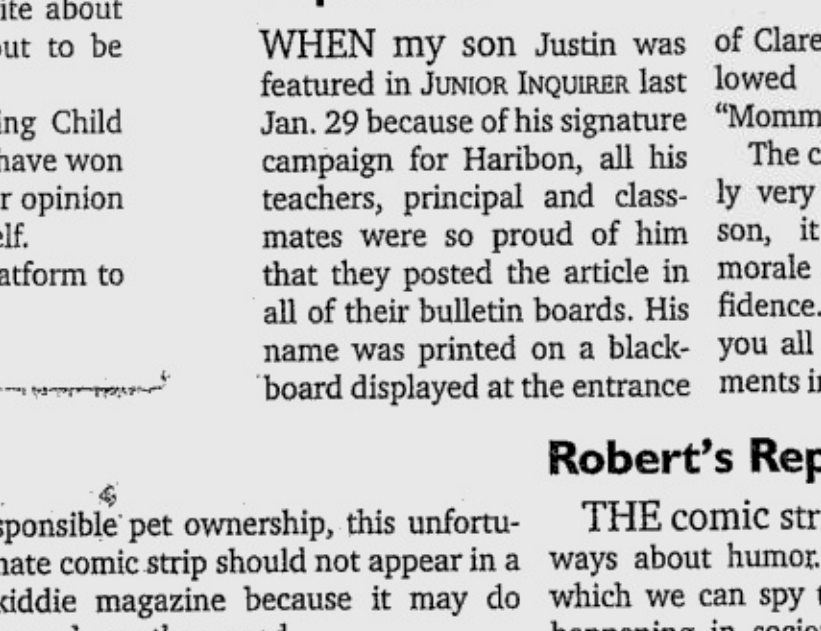
THE comic strip by Robert Magnuson which appeared in the Jr. Inquirer last Feb. 26, 2005 wasn't entertaining to some of us because JI's target is the impressionable young minds of children.

The idea behind the comic strip was to have people laugh at the plight of the "unfortunate pet." Since the cartoon was not meant as an editorial cartoon, the attempt at this type of humor strikes a raw nerve among animal welfare advocates who feel that a serious issue such as animal cruelty must be dealt with extreme caution when dished out as something humorous to our young people.

We feel that the humor is too dark for kids, and worse, misinterpret the strip and wrongly infer that it is okay to laugh at the pet's misfortune.

In our country where PAWS is fighting an uphill battle to educate people about compassion, kindness and responsible pet ownership, this unfortunate comic strip should not appear in a kiddie magazine because it may do more harm than good.

ANNA CABRERA
Director
The Philippine Animal Welfare Society
Quezon City



Robert's Reply

THE comic strip format is not always about humor. It is a lens from which we can spy the truths that are happening in society. Its friendly appearance allows us to let our guard down so that certain truths (some of which we do not wish to admit) may hit home.

The only thing "humorous" about the strip is the evidence of human stupidity—the ignorance of the owners not caring how their dog must feel in such circumstances. If we laugh at that then we laugh at our missed potential to be stewards of God's creations.

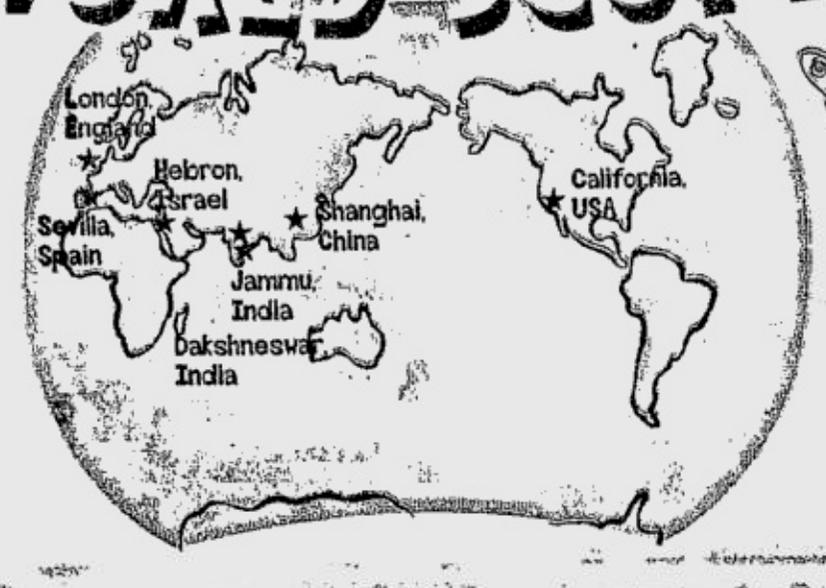
While children can be impressionable, they do not mimic without some basis in reason. I believe that JI's young readers can pick up on the dog's desire to be free. His plight is an unresolved one that hopefully triggers a desire in the reader to want to save the animal from distress.

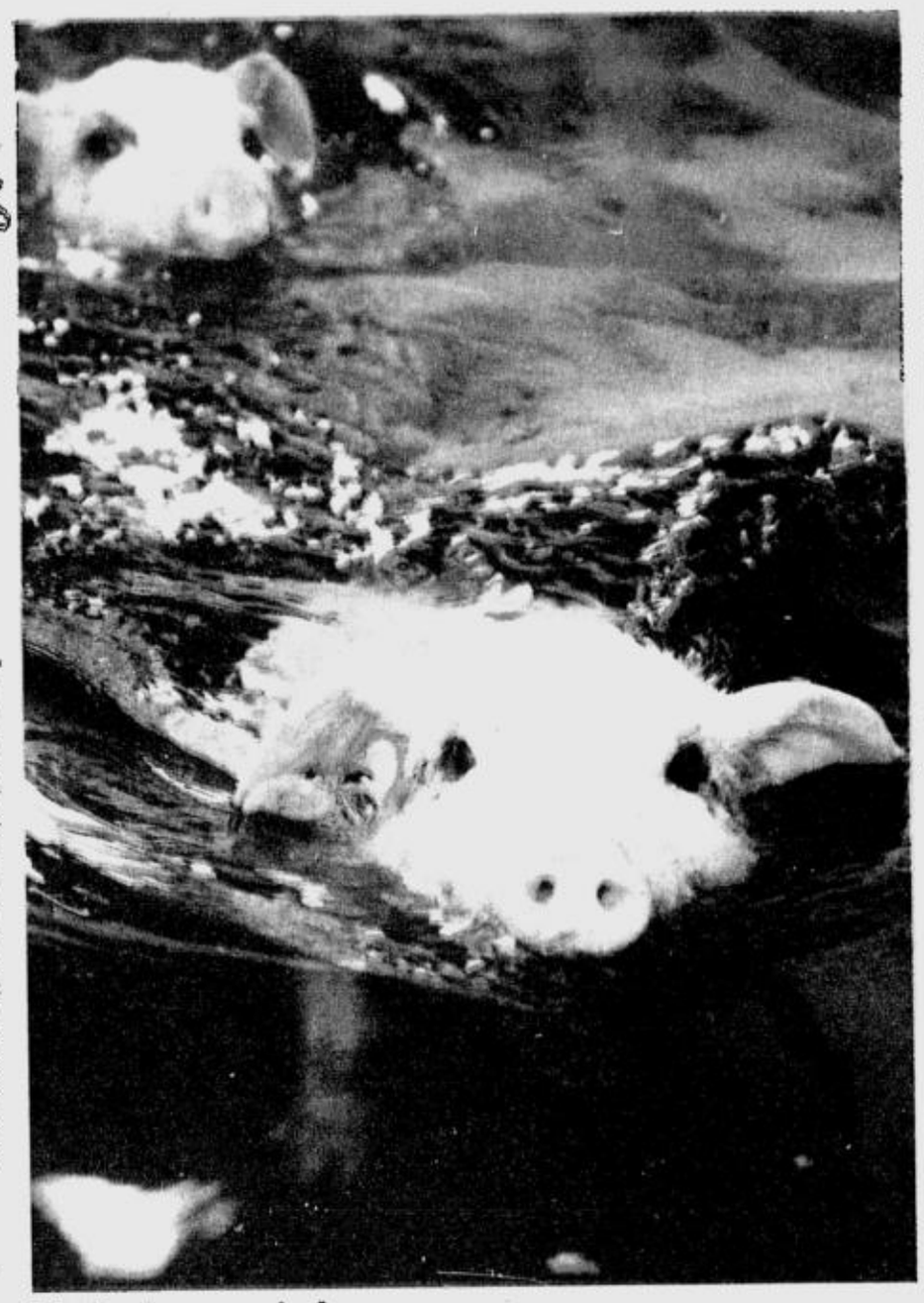
ROBERT MAGNUSON
Creator, Shirley's Pets

Be Heard!

What do you think about this comic strip? How did it make you feel? Write us at ji@inquirer.com.ph or at P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City.

WORLD SCOPE





Brick maker

A SEVEN-year-old Indian girl, Rameshwari, works in a brick kiln on the outskirts of the city of Jammu. India's constitution bans children younger than 14 from working but human rights groups estimate there are up to 115 million child laborers in India. *Reuters*

Passover

JEWISH boys look on during the preparation for the coming Passover holiday in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim neighborhood. Passover recounts the hasty exodus of the ancient Israelites from Egypt. *AP*

Well done, pig!

BABE'S relatives compete in a swimming contest in Heping Park in Shanghai. These one-year-old piglets received a year's training to become qualified all-around players and will compete in five events including racing and hurdling. *AP*

Next Gen's Superman

ACTOR Brandon Routh stars as Superman in the new film from Warner Bros. Pictures' "Superman Returns." *Reuters*

Ramnavami

A DEVOTEE puts make-up on a young girl who would be worshipped as "kumari" (young maiden girl standing for the Hindu goddess Adyama) during the celebration of Ramnavami, the birthday of Hindu god Rama, at a temple in Dakshneswar, north of Calcutta. *AFP*

Mohammad's birthday

PALESTINIAN girls pray at Ibraheemi mosque to commemorate Prophet Mohammad's birthday in the West Bank city of Hebron last April 21. *Reuters*

Car of the future

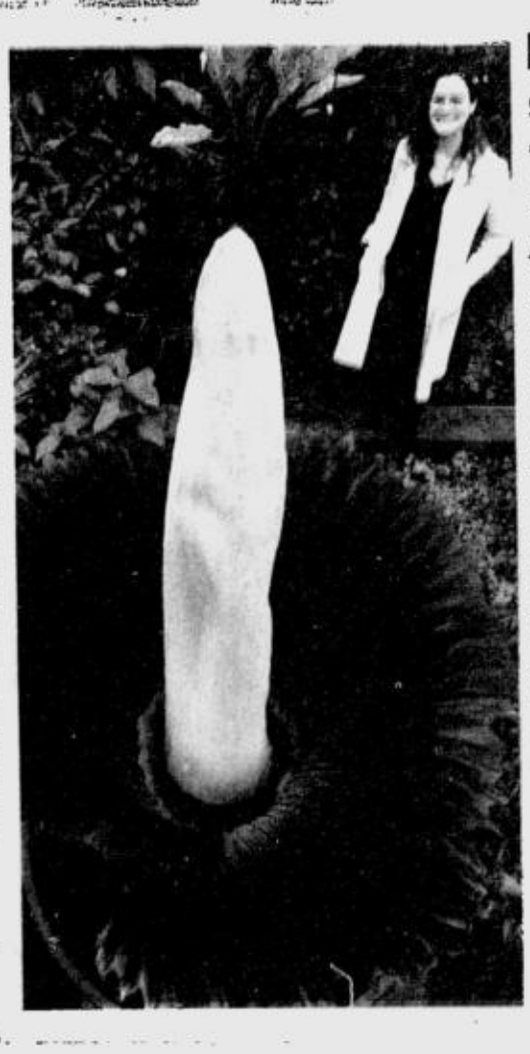
A MODEL sits in a new Toyota 'i-unit' concept car during the preview of the 2005 Auto Shanghai Exhibition in China. *Reuters*

Lynx Cubs

BRECINA, Brezo and Brisa, were born in captivity at the National Park of Donana, southwestern Spain a month ago. Officials claim it is the first successful breeding in captivity of the world's most endangered large cat species. The World Wildlife Foundation estimates the Iberian lynx is likely to become extinct in the wild within 10-20 years if nothing is done. *AFP*

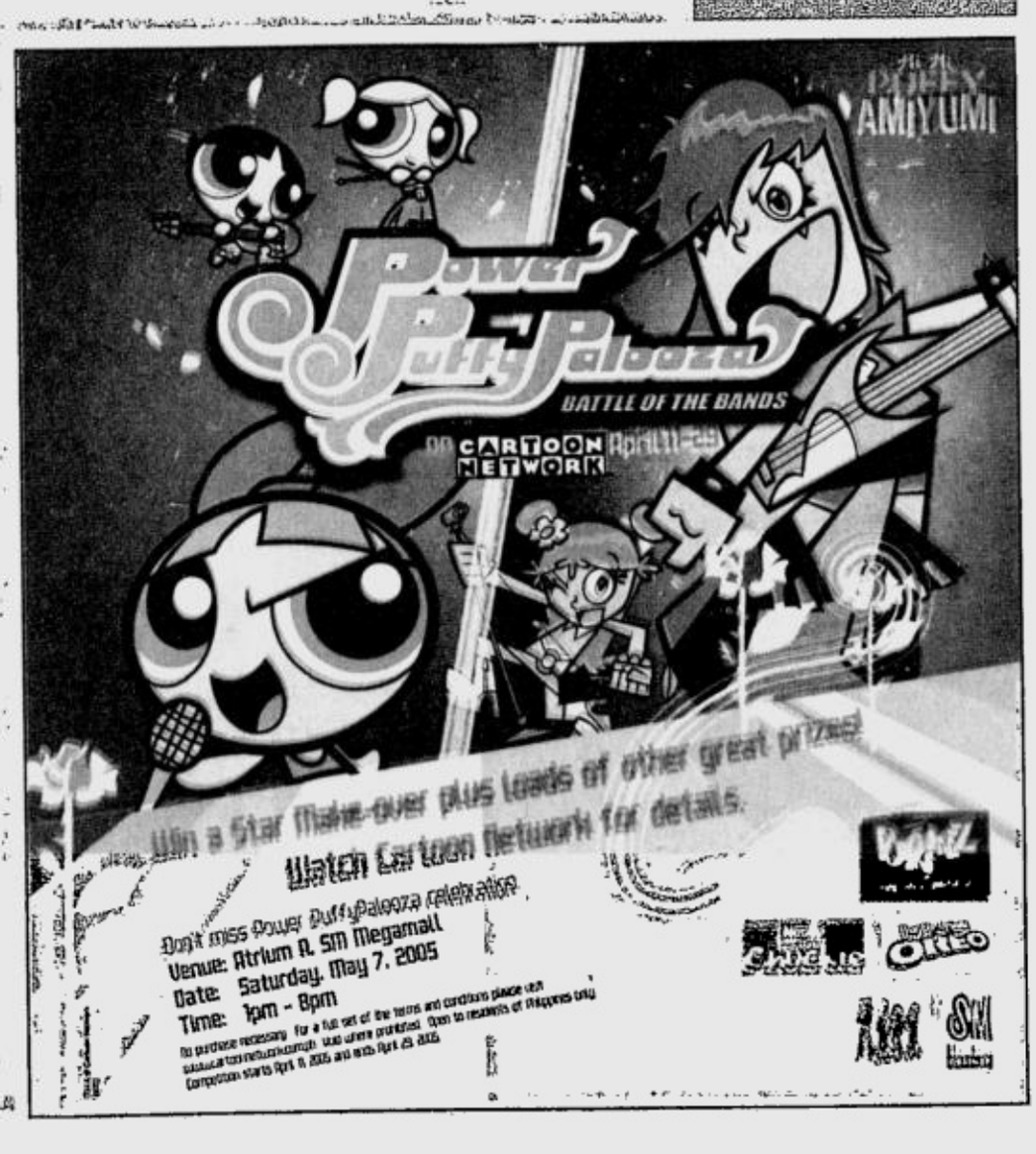
Lake in trouble

THIS NASA satellite image shows the Aral Sea. It shrinks every year because Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan farmers have diverted water from the Amy Darya and Syr Darya rivers for 40 years. It used to be the fourth largest lake but is now eighth at best—shallow and nearly 2.5 times as salty as the ocean. *AFP*



Large and smelly

THIS titan arum lily (*Amorphophallus titanium*) at the Royal Botanical Garden's hothouse, in west London is renowned for its hideous smell, which is said to be a cross between burnt sugar and rotting flesh. The lily, of which there has only been six in the UK, originates from Sumatra, and stands at 2.11 meters high (6.9 feet). The plant flowers for only two days before collapsing. *AP*



May Puno sa Loob ng aki

Ni Genaro R. Gojo Cruz
Mga Guhit ni Jason Moss

"NAKU! 'Wag sanang magkatotoo ang sinabi ni Lola Terry."

"Sabi kasi niya, kapag nakalunok daw ng buto, pwede raw tumubo ang buto sa loob ng tiyan."

"Kanino ko kaya puwedeng sabihin na nakalunok ako ng isang maliit na buto ng santol kanina? Maliit lang naman ang buto, pero buto pa rin 'yon ng santol."

"Sobrang tamis kasi ng santol na inakyat ni Kuya Lester sa likod ng bahay ni Lola Terry kaya di ko napigilan, nakalunok ako ng isang maliit na buto. Pinigil ko ito pero tuloy-tuloy lang ang madulas na buto sa aking lalamunan hanggang sa aking tiyan."

"Naku! Pa'no na kaya 'to?"

"May espesyal kayang doktor para sa pag-aalis ng buto sa tiyan?"

"Paano kung tumubo na ang buto at maging isang malaking puno sa loob ng aking tiyan?"

"Paano na ang aking tiyan?"

"Magiging parang buntis kaya ako o maging isang malintog na lobo ang aking tiyan dahil sa puno ng santol na nagsisimula nang tumubo?"

"Makakain pa kaya ako?"

"AH! ALAM ko na, di na lang ako iinom ng tubig para di lumaki ang puno sa aking tiyan."

"Sabi kasi ni Lola Terry, kapag di raw nadidiligan ng tubig ang buto, natutuyo ito at di na tumutubo."

"Kapag di nadiligan ng tubig ang buto sa loob ng aking tiyan, tiyak na mauuhaw ito at mamamatay. At di na magiging isang puno."

"Pero paano kung mauhaw ako?"

"Kailangan ko rin ng tubig."

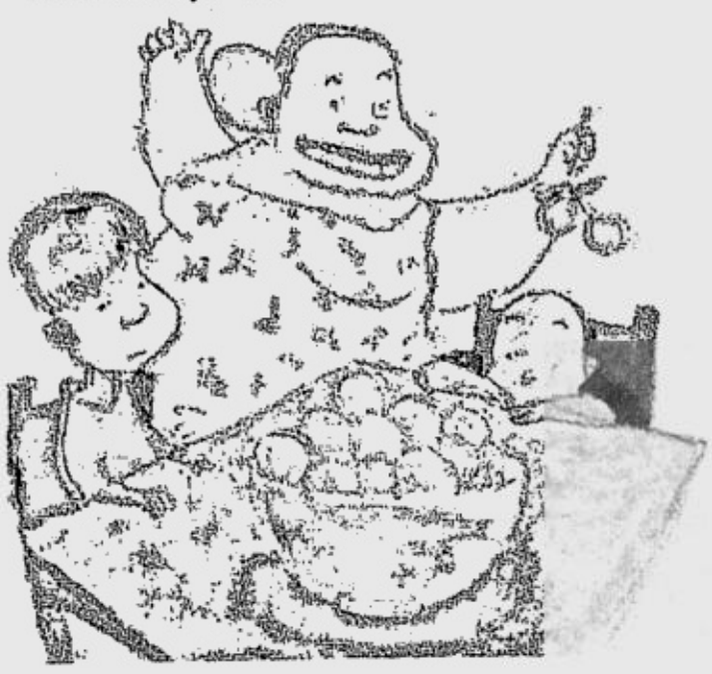
"AH! Alam ko na, iinom ako ng maraming-maraming tubig."

"Sabi kasi ni Lola Terry, kapag nasobrahan sa tubig ang buto, nalulunod ito at namamatay."

"Kapag nasobrahan ng tubig ang buto sa loob ng aking tiyan, tiyak na malulunod ito at mamamatay. At di na magiging isang puno."

"Pero paano kung matakaw pala sa tubig ang buto ng santol? Baka lalong bumilis ang paglaki ng puno sa loob ng aking tiyan?"

"Paano na kaya 'to?"



"Kanino ko kaya sasabihing may buto sa loob ng aking tiyan?"

"TEKA, parang may mga ugat na lumalabas sa aking tiyan. May maliliit, malalaki, at paliku-likong ugat."

"Paano kung lumalaki na nga ang puno ng santol sa loob ng tiyan?"

"Paano kung maglabasan na ang mga sanga nito sa aking ilong, bibig, tenga, at mata?"

"Paano na ako makakahinga, makapagsasalita, makaririnig at makakakita?"

"Makilala pa kaya ako ni Nanay at Tatay? Ng aking mga klasmeyt pag-uwi ko sa bahay namin?"

"NAKU! Ilang oras na ang buto ng santol sa loob ng aking tiyan. Kanina pa ako kumain ng santol pagka-tapos ng tanghalian. Ngayon, hapunan na."

"Gaano na kaya kalaki ang buto sa aking tiyan?"

"May sumusulpot na kayang isang dahon? Dalawang dahon? O tatlong dahon?"

"Gaano na kaya ito kataas? Kalahating dangkal kaya? Isang dangkal? O higit na sa isang dangkal?"

SA gitna ng mesa, nakita ko na namang nakahain ang sandamukal na santol.

"Martina, pumili ka na ng santol na gusto mo at ipagbabalat kita," ang utos sa akin ni Lola Terry.

"Para talaga sa 'yo ang matatamis na santol na 'yan!" ang sabi naman ni Kuya Lester.

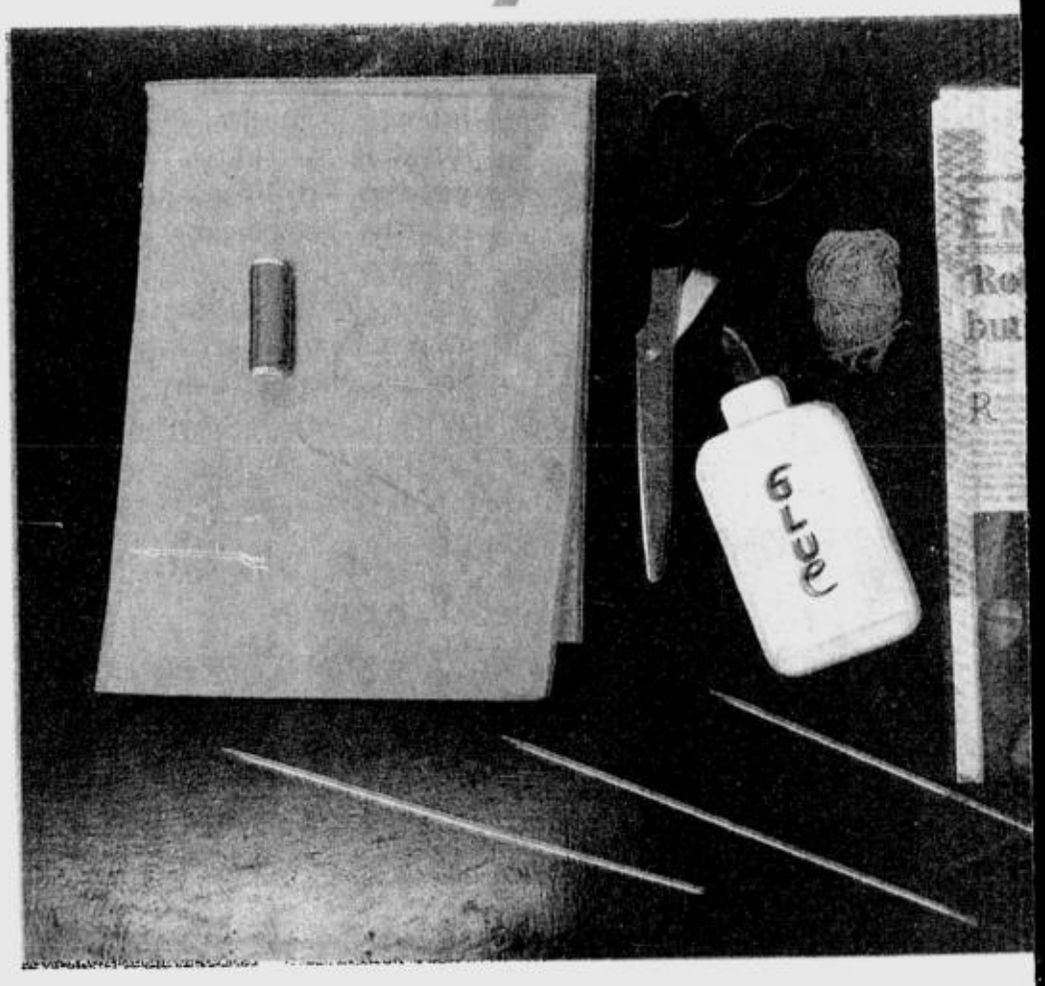
"Sa Maynila, binibili pa 'yan," si Lola Tery uli.

Pinili ko ang pinaka-orange at ipinagbalat ako ni Lola Terry. Walang putol magbalat ng santol ang aking Lola.

I Believe I Can Fly!

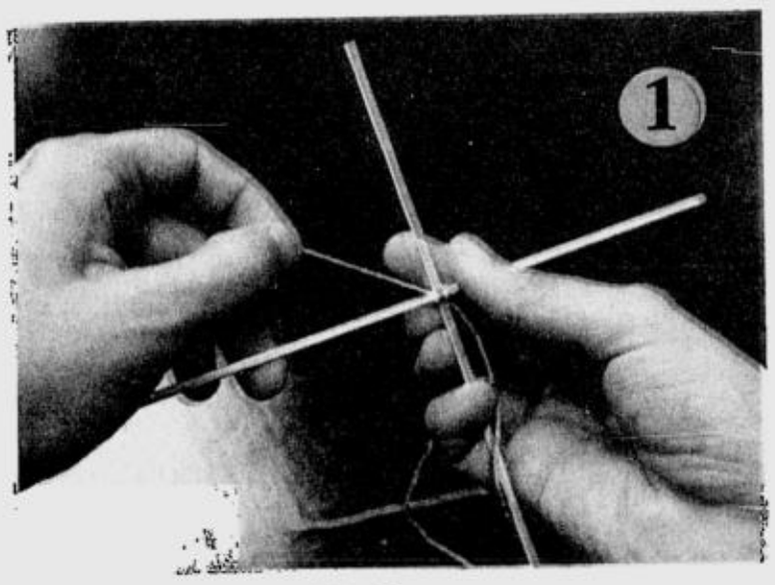
By Zobel Certeza
Contributor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

TIME to give your Playstations and Bratz Dolls a break! Sunshiny days are beckoning us to enjoy the great outdoors. And what better way to do that than to run like the wind with a kite in tow. With a little wind, a little luck, and a little patience, kite-flying will give you lots of fun!



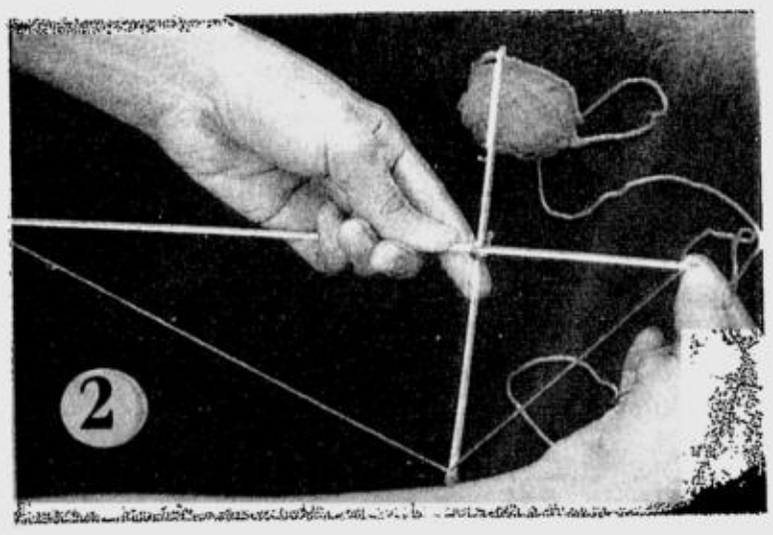
LET'S MAKE ONE!

Materials needed:
1 90-cm bamboo stick
1 102-cm bamboo stick
Japanese paper
old newspaper or ribbon
lightweight string
ruler
craft knife or any small knife
pencil
scissors
glue

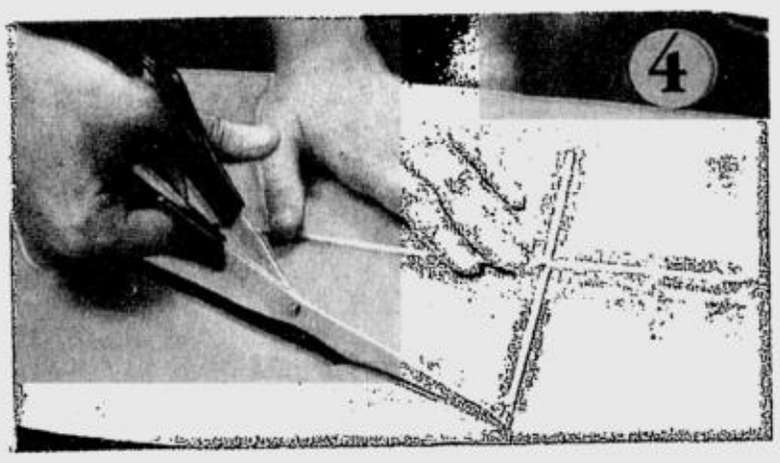


The Frame

Place the shorter stick (spar) across the longer stick (spine). The spar should be about ¼ down the length of the spine. Make sure the spine intersects the spar at its middle. Wrap a string around the joint, or the part where the two sticks intersect, crossing the string over and under the sticks. Knot and cut the strings. Put glue at the end of the string.

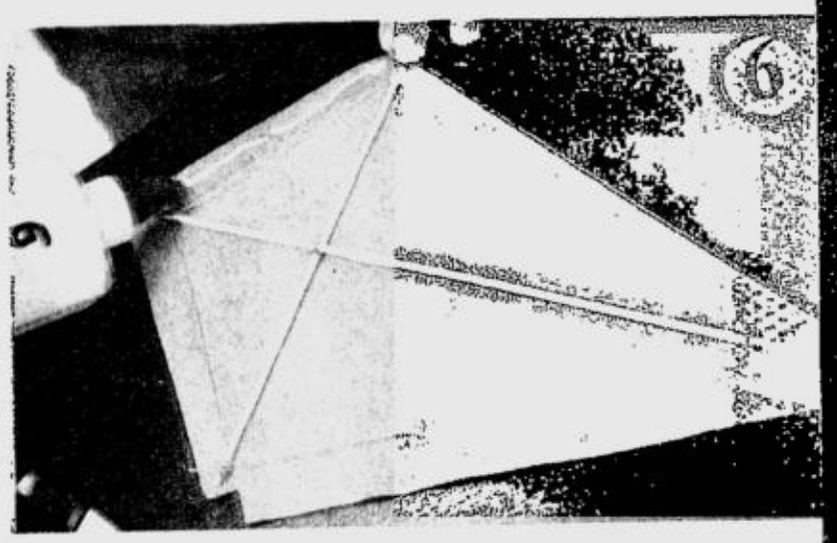


Ask a grownup to notch the ends of the sticks with a knife. Put the string on the notches and pull it tight, all the way around.

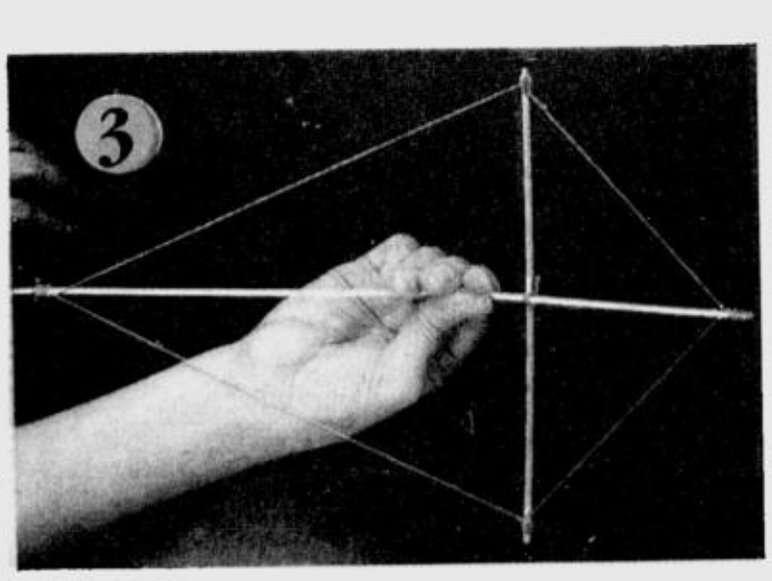


The Body

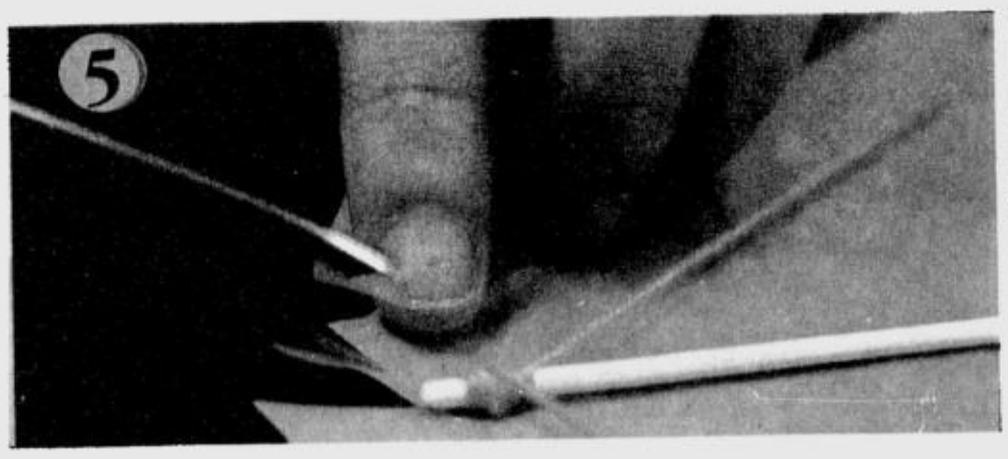
Lay the kite frame on the Japanese paper. Trace around the frame, leaving a 2 to 3-centimeter margin. Cut following the lines that you traced.



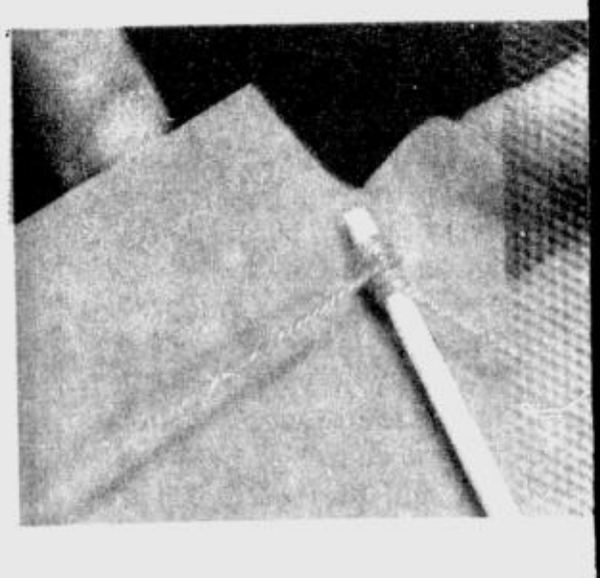
Put glue along each edge of the paper and carefully fold o frame.



Tie the ends of the string together and make a knot. You now have your kite frame!



Cut away the corners.



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ng Tiyan

At si Kuya Lester, kumuha na rin ng santol at kinagat na lang niya. Tapos, isinawsaw sa isang platitong asin.

"Sarap talagang panghimagas ng santol! Ang tamis-tamis!" ang lumabas sa bibig ni Kuya Lester.

Pagkatapos mabalatan ni Lola ang santol, "Para sa aking mahal na apo, isang matamis na matamis na santol," ang sabi ni Lola habang ibinibigay niya sa akin ang santol.

Inabot ko ang santol pero nang kakagatin ko na ito, naalala kong bigla, "Teka pala! May buto pa nga pala ng santol sa aking tiyan," ang sabi ng isip ko.

KRING! Kring! Kring!

"Si Lola talaga, buti na lang at biglang nag-ring ang telepono kung hindi, makakakain uli ako ng santol."

Pinuntahan ni Lola Terry ang telepono.

At sandali lang, "Martina! Martina! Ang iyong nanay nasa telepono! Dalian mo apo!"

"Nanay?"

"O anak, kamusta na?"

"Okay lang naman ako dito, 'Nay."

"Susunduin ka na namin bukas ng Tatay mo. Malapit na ang pasukan, anak."

"Nay?"

"O, ano 'yon, anak?"

"Pag ba nakalunok ng buto ng santol, puwedeng tumubo sa loob ng tiyan?"

Isang malakas na halakhak ang narinig ko kay Nanay.

"Anak, hindi totoo 'yon!" ang sagot ni Nanay.

"Kung maliit lang naman ang buto, sasama 'yon kapag umoo ka."

"Pero anak, kailangan din na mag-ingat sa pagkain ng santol sa susunod. Hindi mabuti sa katawan ang makalunok ng buto ng santol."

Sa sinabi ni Nanay, parang bumalik uli sa dati ang lahat, gusto ko na uling kainin ang matamis na santol na binalatan ni Lola Terry.

Pagbalik ko sa mesa, tatlo pang santol ang binalatan ni Lola para sa akin. At si Kuya Lester, mukhang nakakarami na.

"Lester, bukas nang umaga, iakyat mo ng santol ang iyong Tita Glenda para maiuwi nila sa Menila. Piliin mo 'yung mga hinog, hane!" ang bilin ni Lola.

"Aba eh, mukhang nakakarami ka na. Dahan-dahan lang, baka makalunok ka ng buto't may tumubong puno sa iyong tiyan," ang sabi ni Lola kay Kuya Lester.

"Si Lola naman, nanakot pa! E kung totoo 'yon, e di lumaki na ang butong nalunok ko noong nakaraang bakasyon. Siguro ngayon, may puno na sa loob ng aking tiyan," sabi ni Kuya Lester habang hinihimas-himas ang pinalalaking tiyan.

Di maubos ang tawanan naming tatlo sa bilog na mesa na puno ng pinagbalatan ng matatamis at parang mga maliliit na bumbilyang santol.

*Umaakyat si **Genaro** ng punong santol sa kinalakhan niyang bayan sa Bulacan. Mahilig rin siya sa siniguelas at kaymito.*

*Mahilig si **Jason** sa pakwan pero linuluwa niya ang mga buto nito.*

Time to Fly High...

If you're by yourself...

Stand with your back to the wind. With one hand, hold your kite up in the air by the lower corner. With your other hand, hold the spool of flying line. When the wind blows, let go of the kite, giving it a little push upward. Move backward and let out the line.

If you're with a friend...

Have your friend hold the kite in the air, with his/her face to the wind. Walk backward towards the wind, letting out string as you walk. When the wind tugs at the kite, your friend should let go. As the kite goes up, keep walking backward, letting out more line.

To bring a kite lower, walk towards the kite, in the direction the wind is blowing and reel in the kite as you walk.

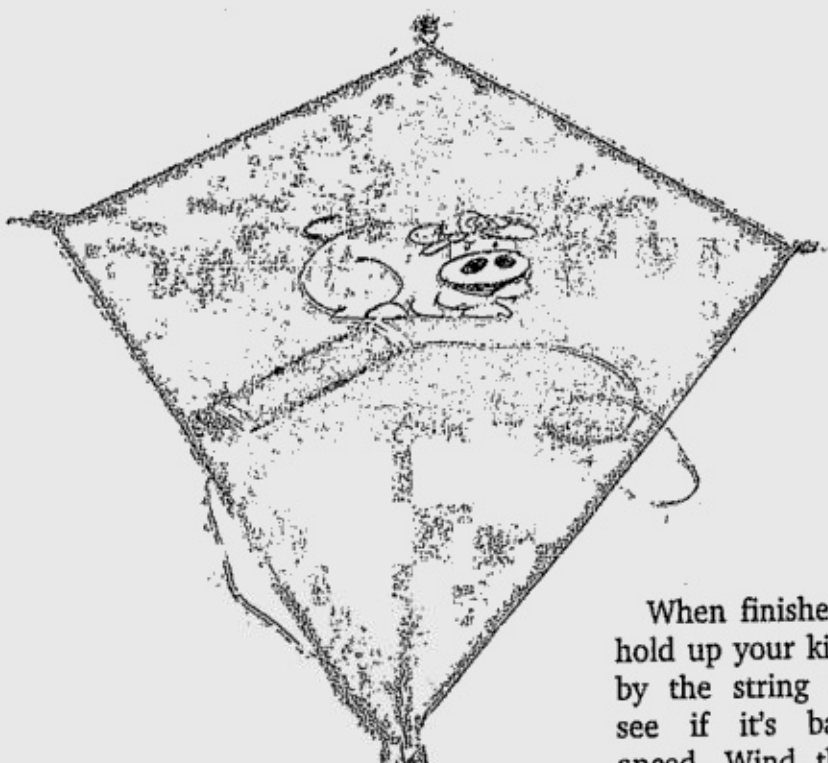
And Fly Safe!

- Don't fly a kite near electric wires or poles.
- Don't fly a kite in the rain. Electricity will travel along a wet kite line.
- Don't use metal on a kite. Metal attracts electricity.
- Don't fly a kite near the edge of a steep slope.

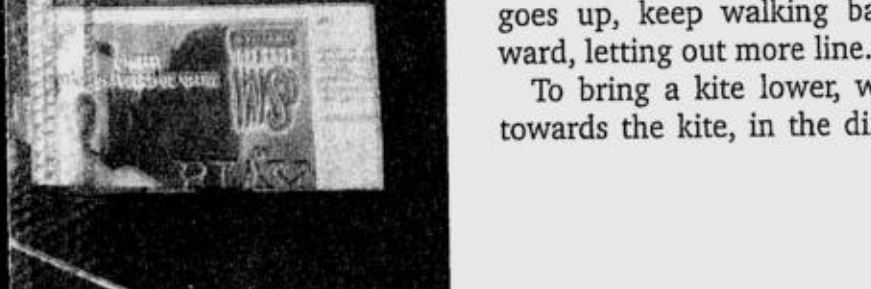
Kites, Live!

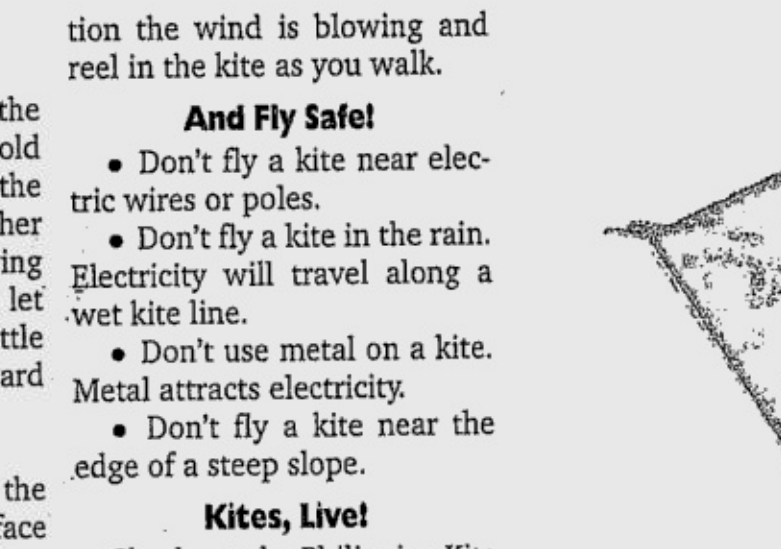
Check out the Philippine Kite Festival at Bonifacio Global City tomorrow. Part of the fun is a kite making seminar at 2 p.m. Call 912-9924.

The Bear Brand Kite Festival will also be in Lucena on May 8 and at Rizal Park on May 15.



When finished, hold up your kite by the string to see if it's balanced. Wind the flying line around a spool or piece of cardboard. You are now ready to fly your creation!

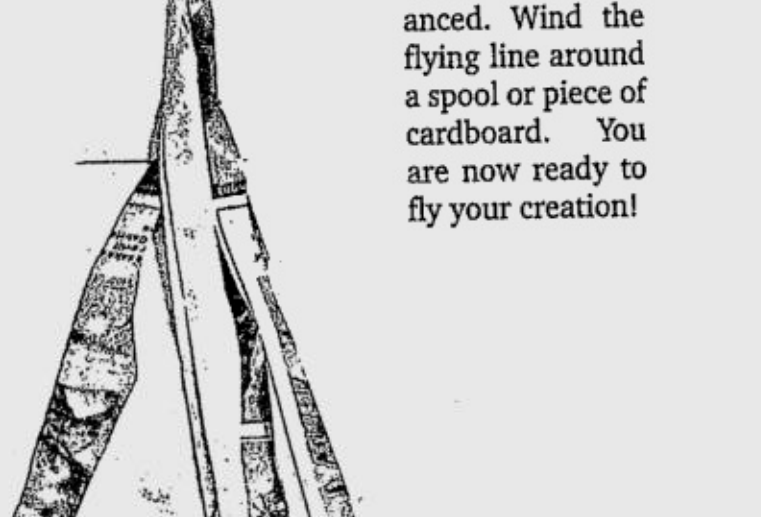




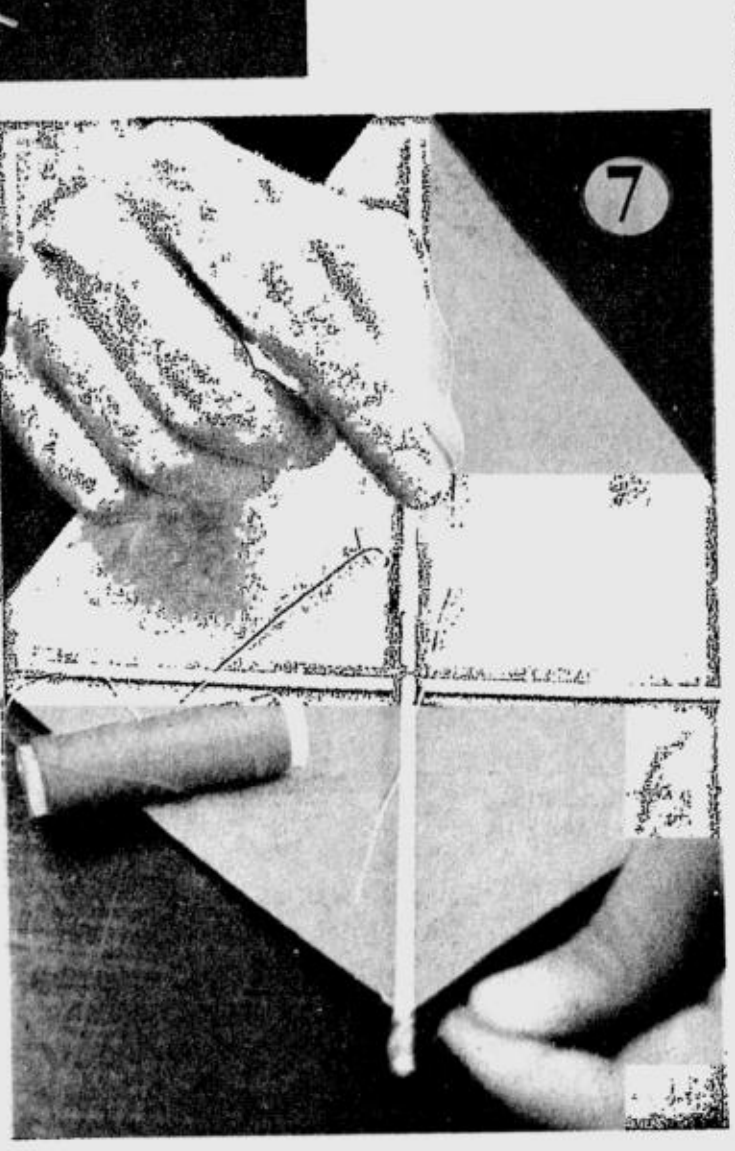
Make a loop one-third of the way down the string and knot it loosely. Tie the other end of the string to the bottom of the spine.

Get the rest of the string and put it through the knot. Tighten the knot. This will be your flying line.

Your kite needs a tail to keep it balanced. You can cut a length of paper to form a tail. Or, use a length of string with ribbons tied to it.



Attach the tail to the bottom of your kite.



Cut a 122-cm long piece of string. Tie one end of the string around the top of the spine.

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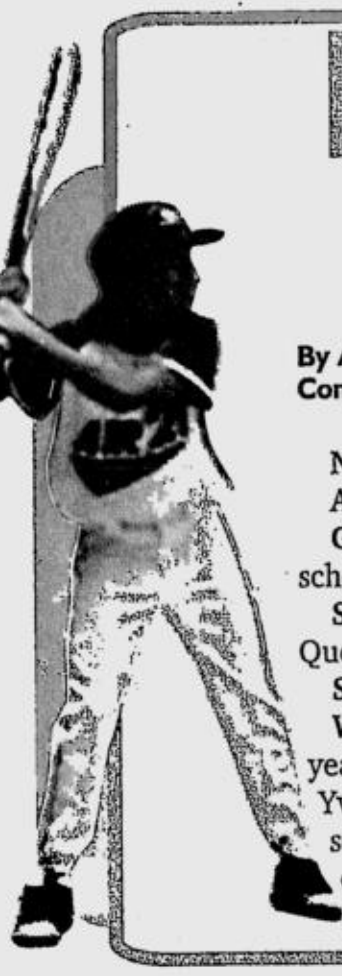


Batter Up!

By Annacris Llanera
Contributor

Name: Yvette Recto
Age: 13
Grade: Incoming 1st year high school
School: Stella Maris School, Quezon City
Sport: Softball

Why she's terrific: In just one year of playing serious softball, Yvette is now a member of the softball national team, officially called the International Little League of Manila (ILAM). Her position is Second Base.

How she got into the sport: With a dad and two elder brothers who are into baseball, Yvette was inspired to join the Summer Baseball Camp in La Salle Greenhills two years ago. The following summer, she signed up for the Softbelles Summer camp, a softball program exclusively for girls. Even though she was the youngest of the bunch, her softball skills were so impressive that just after a month, her coach encouraged her to try out for the Nike Women's Jr. Team, and guess what? She was accepted! Shortly after, she was also recruited by ILAM.

Extra challenge: Summer is extra busy for our softball star since she has practice from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. When school starts, practice is limited to Fridays after school. But juggling softball and school isn't much of a problem for Yvette. Her dad says her grades have even improved!

Why she's lovin' softball: Yvette has always been a fan of Major League Baseball, particularly the New York Yankees' shortshop, Derek Jeter. Softball is similar to baseball save for minor differences (the ball is bigger, the bat is shorter). Also, softball is a great way to showcase what Yvette does best—running to those well-guarded bases! She thinks kids should try out the sport because, "you make a lot of friends and playing softball is fun!"

Ultimate softball dream: Yvette says she'd like to finally hit a home run (so far, she's only gotten as far as third base) and to compete with softball players from other countries.

To learn more about softball, you can call or text The Softbelles at 0917-7545242 and look for Coach Lia or check out their website at http://www.softbelles.org.

YVETTE with the Softbelles ANNACRIS LLANERA/CONTRIBUTOR

Juha, the Flying Fil

By Eline Santos

Kids'rrific

Name: Jose Antonio Turalba
Age: 11
Grade: 5
School: International School Manila
Sport: Go-karting

Why he's terrific: Juha ranked fourth overall in the Asian Karting Open Championships in Macau last year.

His passion for karting includes understanding how the go-kart works. He can easily talk about the difference between 2-stroke and 4-stroke engines, tire pressure, and how much gas and air the engine needs before the start of a race.

How he got into the sport: "Sometime around 2003 I heard that there will be a go-kart track in Fort Bonifacio. When it finally opened, I tried it."

Extra challenge: When Juha made a shift from rental go-karts to go-karts without safety bands, he went slowly at first to get used to the track.

Juha says go-karting is dangerous if you don't know what you're doing. Caught between two cars in a race, his kart flipped and Juha had a broken collarbone to show for it.

JUHA, named after famed racer Juha Kankunen, also feels the need for speed. RAFFY LERMA

The costs are pretty steep as well. Juha recommends renting karts first before investing in this expensive hobby.

Getting ready for action: Juha, dubbed "The Flying Fil" (short for Filipino), says he prepares before a competition by getting enough rest and liquids.

He adds, "Before the race, you have to get all your gear together, make sure you bring everything."

Advice for wannabe karters: "Driving isn't really a thing in your mind (where) you're thinking 'to brake here,' 'to gas here,' 'turn this way.' You go around the track and then you follow the ideal line which is like the fastest way around the corner."

If you want to try this sport, you can rent a kart at The Manila Speedzone with tel. no. 881-9682. You can also try Tuason Racing School at 635-2578.

Underwater Adventurer

By Christine A. Paita

Name: Marco Antonio R Aldaba
Age: 11
Grade: 6
School: La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong

Why he's terrific: At his age, Anton is already a PADI-certified Junior Adventure Diver—which means he can dive as deep as 90 feet underwater. He has logged more than 50 dives in his travels to Batangas, Mindoro, Cebu, Bohol, and Palawan.

Anton was also the youngest participant in the 19th International Coastal Clean-Up Activity in September last year. "I saw milk cartons, plastic water guns, and chips containers (wrappers). It makes me feel sad because we've already polluted land, and then we see these underwater," Anton said.

How he got into the sport: Anton became fascinated with diving after he watched a movie about sharks. He took his first scuba diving lessons last year and got a license for Junior Open Water Diving. After that, Anton took advanced lessons so he could go beyond 40 feet below the surface. Just a few weeks later, he became a certified Junior Adventure Diver, which allowed him to go diving at night (with grown-ups, of course!) and explore sunken ships and objects in wreck diving.

Extra challenge: Even though Anton is an experienced swimmer and is comfortable being in water, he had initial fears about scuba diving, like not being able to breathe properly nor see clearly underwater.

To kids who are afraid of the water, Anton suggests, "Just think of happy thoughts!"

Try it: "It's a lot of fun. You get to see a lot of things that you don't see every day," shares Anton. Anton's favorites are a sunken ship he explored with his dad and a blowfish that crossed his path.

For Anton, exploring the underwater world is a totally awesome experience. "It feels like you're in outer space because it's zero gravity. And when you hit the bottom, it's like you're in another world," he says.

Interested in exploring the underwater world? Kids have to be at least 10 years old to be a Junior Open Water Diver. If you're 8-10, you may take the Bubble Maker Course first. Check out www.padi.com.ph to choose which school can offer you these courses.

GEAR UP! Anton says yes to every diving opportunity as long as his dad says okay. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

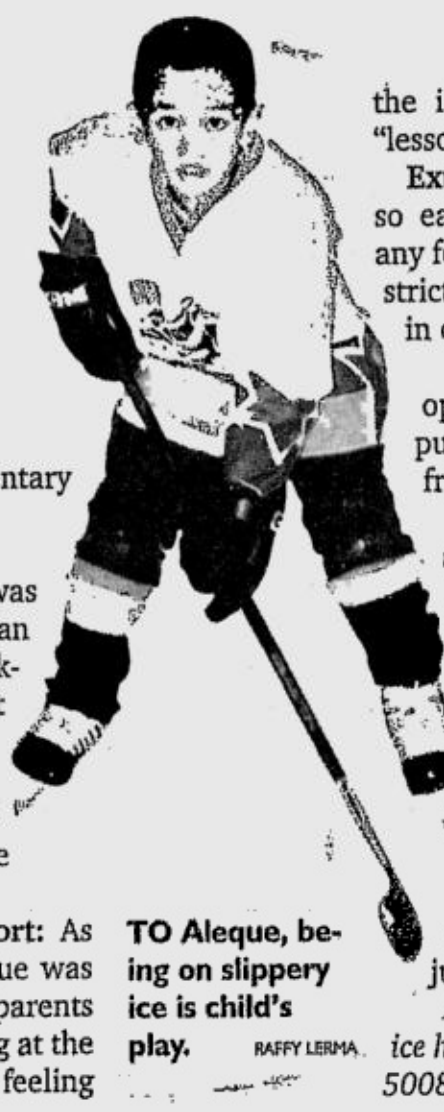
Aleque on Ice

By Eline Santos

Name: Aleque Medina
Age: 8
Grade: 3
School: De Castro Elementary School, Pasig City
Sport: Ice Hockey

Why he's terrific: He was chosen as the best defense man in the SM Philippine Ice Hockey League Tournament last December where his team, the Manila Black Wolves, bagged second place. He was also chosen as MVP during the Summer Skate of 2003.

How he got into the sport: As soon as he could walk, Aleque was already skating. Having both parents as coaches, he was a tag-along at the rink when he was a week old, feeling the ice at 3 months, and getting "lessons" from Dad at 2 years old.



TO Aleque, being on slippery ice is child's play. RAFFY LERMA

Extra challenge: Having started so early, Aleque didn't really have any fears being on ice, but his Dad is stricter on him than the other kids in class.

He adds, "It's tough to avoid opponents when you have the puck. They want to get the puck from you."

Keeping safe: Aleque puts on a lot of safety gear: chest pads, shin guards, elbow pads, and a helmet. It's not only what you wear, but how you wear it. Skates have to be put on really tight to support the ankle properly and avoid injuries.

Try it: "There's no need to be nervous," Aleque encourages others to try his sport. "It's just like playing."

If you want to learn how to play ice hockey, call SM Megamall at 633-5008 or SM Southmall at 800-0426.

Touché, Ivy!

By Lilibeth Gabison
Contributor

Name: Ivy Baldazo
Age: 12
Grade: Incoming 2nd Year High School
School: St. Mary's Academy of Pasay
Sport: Fencing

Why she's terrific: Fencing may not be popular but Ivy has been honing her skills for four years. She uses two kinds of weapons: the epeé and the foil.

SHARP moves from a sharp mind JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

How she got into the sport: Ivy started when a family friend volunteered to coach her and her siblings. Ivy's been training regularly since.

Extra challenge: At first, Ivy feared the blade and getting injured. Now, however, she finds the pressure of trying to be better more difficult.

"I just do what my coach tells me."

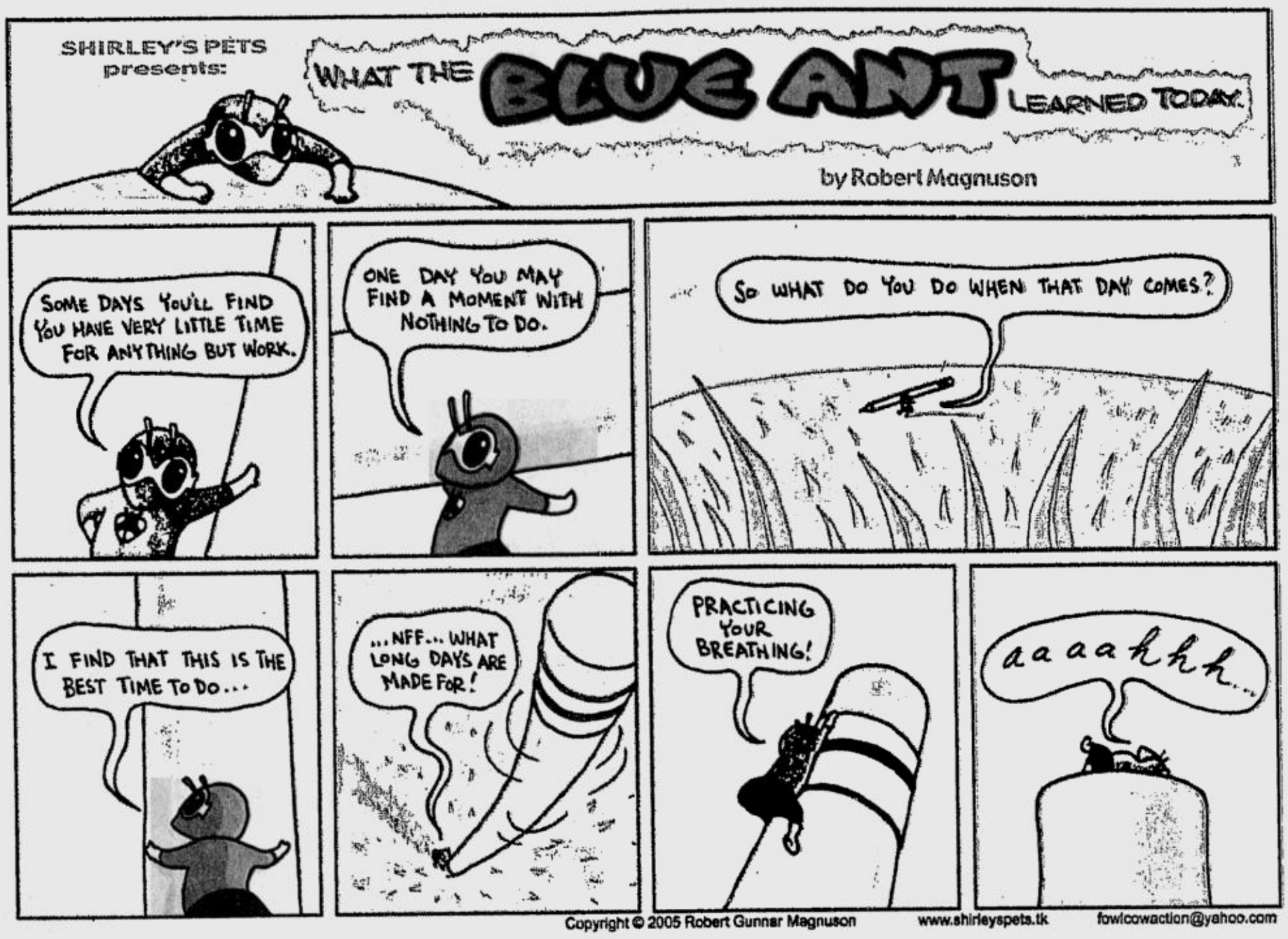
Unforgettable moment: In one competition, she was hit on the collarbone. It hurt so much that it brought tears to her eyes. Though her vision was blurred, Ivy fought on and eventually won the match.

"Risk is a big part of any individual's life but as long as you apply the proper defense skills then you minimize the risk of getting injured."

A sharp mind is one defense.

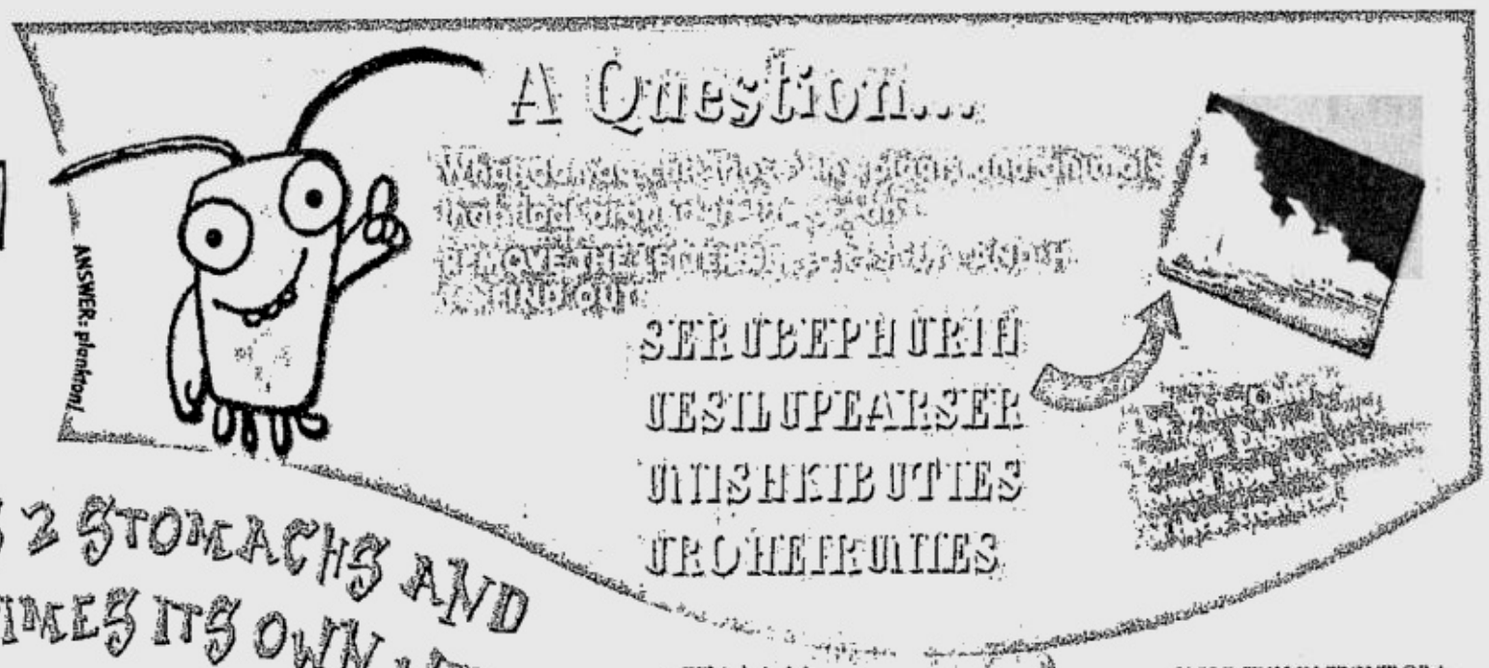
"You learn from what your opponent is doing," she says. "Stay focused and think of your next move."

Learn how to fence! Call Ben Nuestro of the University of the Philippines at 887-3129 or the Philippine Fencers Association at 635-0101.



THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa



WHAT HAS 2 STOMACHS AND CAN LIFT 20 TIMES ITS OWN WEIGHT?

☐ Is it Bob the Bodybuilder?

The human body has around 640 muscles. The smallest muscle is the stapedius, in your middle ear. It measures a little over a millimeter.

☑ Which is it? your answer!

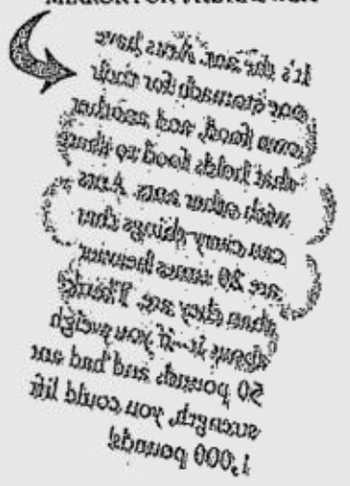
☐ Is it the adorable Ant?

Ants use their antennae to touch and smell. There are over 10,000 known species of ants in the world.

☐ Is it the Graceful Gorilla?

Gorillas need about 40 pounds of food a day. Despite what you might think, they really are gentle animals and like to treat each other with kindness.

HOLD THIS IN FRONT OF A MIRROR FOR THE ANSWER!



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

Life with no TV

(from page 2)

TV just yet. So we were left to our own devices. By lunch time, we had thought of nothing to do except reread all our books and play on the computer. Then, our internet cards ran out! That's when we had an idea—a silly one, but still worth a try. We attached the DVD player to the stereo system and listened to the movies without seeing them. That's how we nearly memorized the lines of our favorite movies.

It was interesting for a while, but soon, we got tired and even angry since we wanted to see everything, not just hear our favorite movies. The fact that our Tita had her own cable TV but would not let us in her room was not helping. So we tried something else. We plugged the Playstation in and started playing our games. Too bad we couldn't see the commands. It was fun, though! Playing racing games without seeing where you're going can be really funny, especially since, for once, I lost to my youngest sister!

Not wanting to damage our games, we found other ways to amuse ourselves—drawing, reading, writing, going on trips to the provinces, making bracelets and digging up stuff we used to play with. I managed to go down memory lane more than once, thinking of things that I did with my siblings and friends.

That was how I spent summer without television. I admit, in the beginning, the only way I could cope was through extra computer time and friends narrating the latest episodes of my favorite shows. But somehow, we all got used to it. Now, I'm not much of a TV addict anymore. It was actually weird remembering how much we did without television. Don't get me wrong—I was begging my parents to fix it nearly the whole time. But our room actually got close to clean. And my Tatay went bookcrazy and managed to visit every bookstore in Manila. That was definitely fun. Now we have plenty of books and all the time to read them.

So there you have it, all because the TV got broken—because of me. They'll never let me forget that.

Fiesta Fever (from page 1)

participate in a "fertility dance." Along with women in costumes and farmers, the couples dance in procession until they reach the church. They believe that by doing so, they will be gifted with children.

Devotees pray to different patron saints: San Pascual Baylon for men who wish to have a wife; to Sta. Clara, for women who want to have a husband; and to the Virgin of Salambao, for those who want a child.

GARLIC FESTIVAL

PARADA NG MGA LECHON PDI PHOTO

HOT BABES AWARD

Parada ng mga Lechon (Parade of Roast Pigs)
June 24
Balayan, Batangas

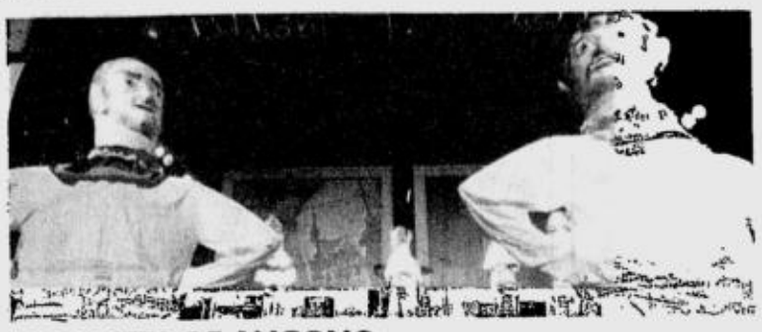
Babe probably avoids the streets of Batangas as crisp, golden-brown roast pigs are paraded for the *Parada ng mga Lechon*. As soon as the best decorated roasted pig is chosen, everyone can feast on the sumptuous treat. It is common practice for families to invite strangers to join them, for they believe that sharing the food brings good luck.

ASWANG-FREE AWARD

Garlic Festival
May 1-3
Sinait, Ilocos Sur

If *aswangs* are really allergic to garlic, then the town of Sinait in Ilocos Sur is probably the most *aswang*-free region. Known as the Garlic Capital of the North, the streets of Sinait are filled with locals wearing garlic-decorated costumes during the Garlic Festival. Fashion has never been more creative with garlic headbands, earrings, anklets, skirt decorations, and even pompoms.

GIANT LANTERN FEST



HIGANTES OF ANGONO PDI PHOTO

FEE FI FO FUM AWARD

Higantes Festival
November 22 and 23
Angono, Rizal

Jack would surely scramble up the beanstalk again if he happened to be passing by Angono during their thanksgiving festival for San Clemente, the patron saint of fishermen. *Higantes*, or large papier mache sculptures, parade along with residents as they accompany the image of San Clemente.

The parade of the *Higantes* dates back to the 1900s when the townspeople made large caricatures of their Spanish landlords. In 1987, each barangay made *a higante* that symbolized its industry or personality. For example, a barangay known for making *balut* would have a *higante* with a duck on its head or one carrying a basket of duck's eggs.

KUMUKUTIKUTITAP AWARD

Giant Lantern Festival
whole month of December
Philippine Christmas Village, San Fernando, Pampanga

Kapampangan lantern makers deserve this award for their innovative use of hair pins, large steel cylinders, and masking tape to make giant works of art with complicated light displays.

Lanterns measuring 14 to 18 feet in diameter delight spectators with their kaleidoscope patterns.

WET A MINUTE AWARD

Pista ng Bayan ng San Juan
June 24

All towns named San Juan (St. John the Baptist)

On the feast of San Juan Bautista or St. John the Baptist, expect to get wet when in San Juan in Metro Manila, Baylan in Batangas, Punta in Taytay, near Bacolod City, in Negros Occidental and Camiguin, North Mindanao. The experience is supposed to be a reminder of one's baptism.

PISTA NI SAN JUAN

Small children use cans or dippers filled with water to douse anyone, even strangers. Older people fill coconut shells with perfumed water to sprinkle on passersby. Others use bamboo cylinders fitted with pistons or water pistols to squirt water.

SANTACRUZAN PDI PHOTO

MOST POPULAR FESTIVAL

Santacruzan
end of May
nationwide

The grand prize for our JI Banderitas Awards goes to the most popular festival of all—the Santacruzan! Whether it's with the beauties in your village or famous people on Roxas Boulevard, you will find it being celebrated everywhere.

The Santacruzan commemorates the finding of the cross of Christ by Queen Helena after a 9-day novena. The finding of the cross is re-enacted by a procession of the town or city's loveliest ladies dressed up as *sagalas*.

Do you know of any unique festival we might have missed? Would you like to give any fiesta a JI Banderitas Award? Email us at ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Research by Christine Paita

Got an event in May? Send us the info by May 15. Our fax number is 897-4811, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Compiled by Christine A. Paita Art by Steph Bravo

Think Out Loud!

What's your favorite pasalubong?

Interviews and photos by Eline Santos

"It would have to be different kinds of souvenirs like key chains, shirts, or cassettes for my Gameboy because every time I use them, I get the feeling of the place where it's from."—***Sheldon Walter Wong,*** *3rd placer in Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd Math Challenge, Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City*

"My favorite is pizza because it is delicious."—***Raphael Santos,*** *3rd placer (team) in Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd Math Challenge, The Peninsula School, Limay, Bataan*

"Go Nuts Donuts because it's delicious."—***Joe Drigo Enriquez,*** *2nd placer Math Challenge, The Peninsula School, Limay Bataan*

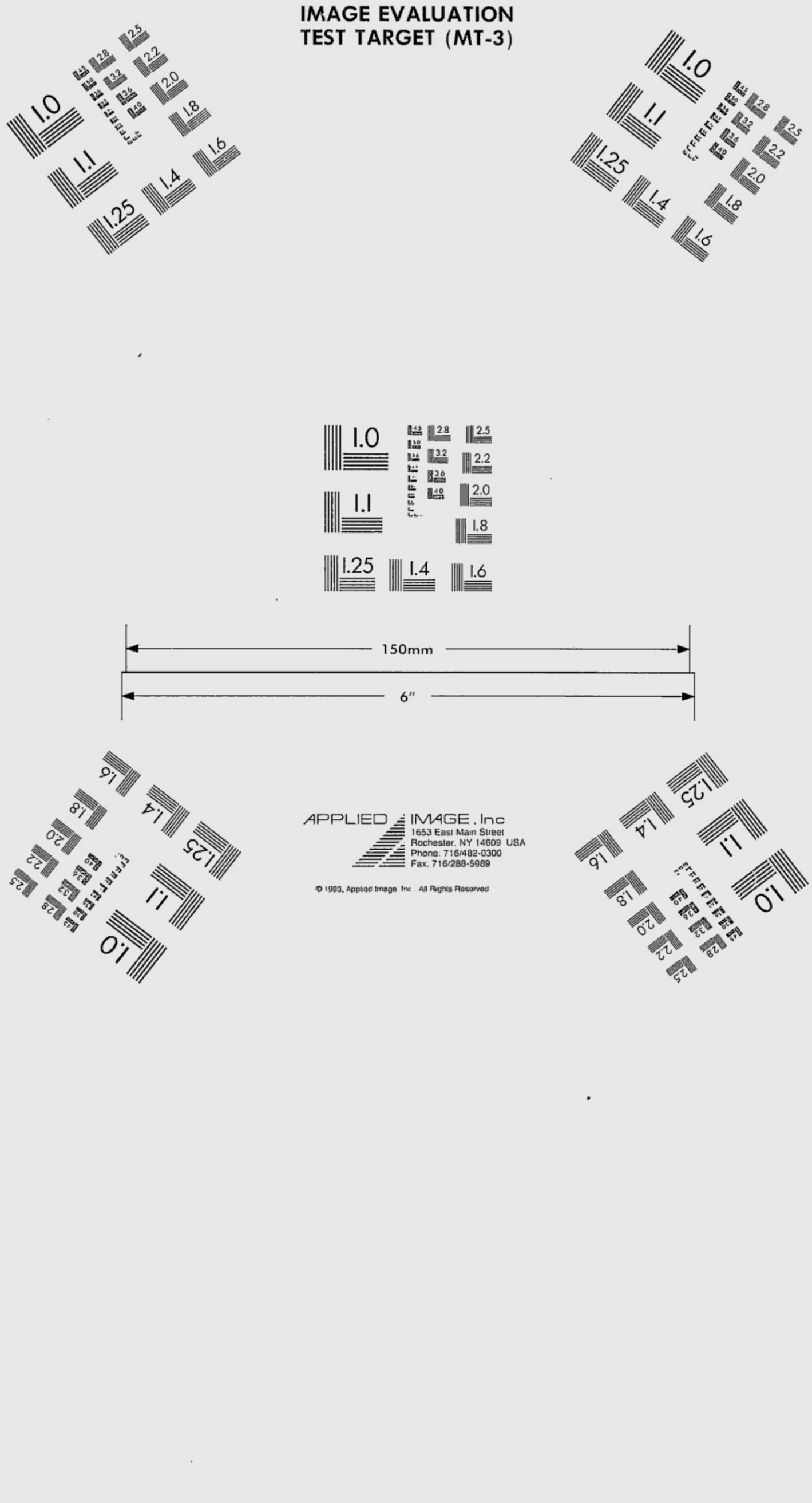
"Dried mango, *masarap kasi siya.*"—***Jhon Derich Farr,*** *incoming Grade 3, St. Andrew School, Parañaque*

"Chocolate is my favorite. Anything that's sweet. Favorite *ko 'yung matatamis.*"—***Ma. Joanna Sidayen,*** *incoming 1st Year High School, Philippine Medical Women's School, Quezon City*

"Dried mango because it is sweet and delicious."—***Ron Michael Castillo,*** *1st placer in Math Challenge, Adriatico Memorial School, Calapan City*

"It can be anything *basta* it's something that shows my parents' love me."—***Larinel Vincent Fiedacan,*** *incoming sixth-grader, Philippine Medical Women's School, Quezon City*

"Toys, because they're fun to play with. I like books, too, because they have exciting stories."—***Majella Cayley Domingo,*** *incoming third-grader, Philippine Medical Women's School, Quezon City*



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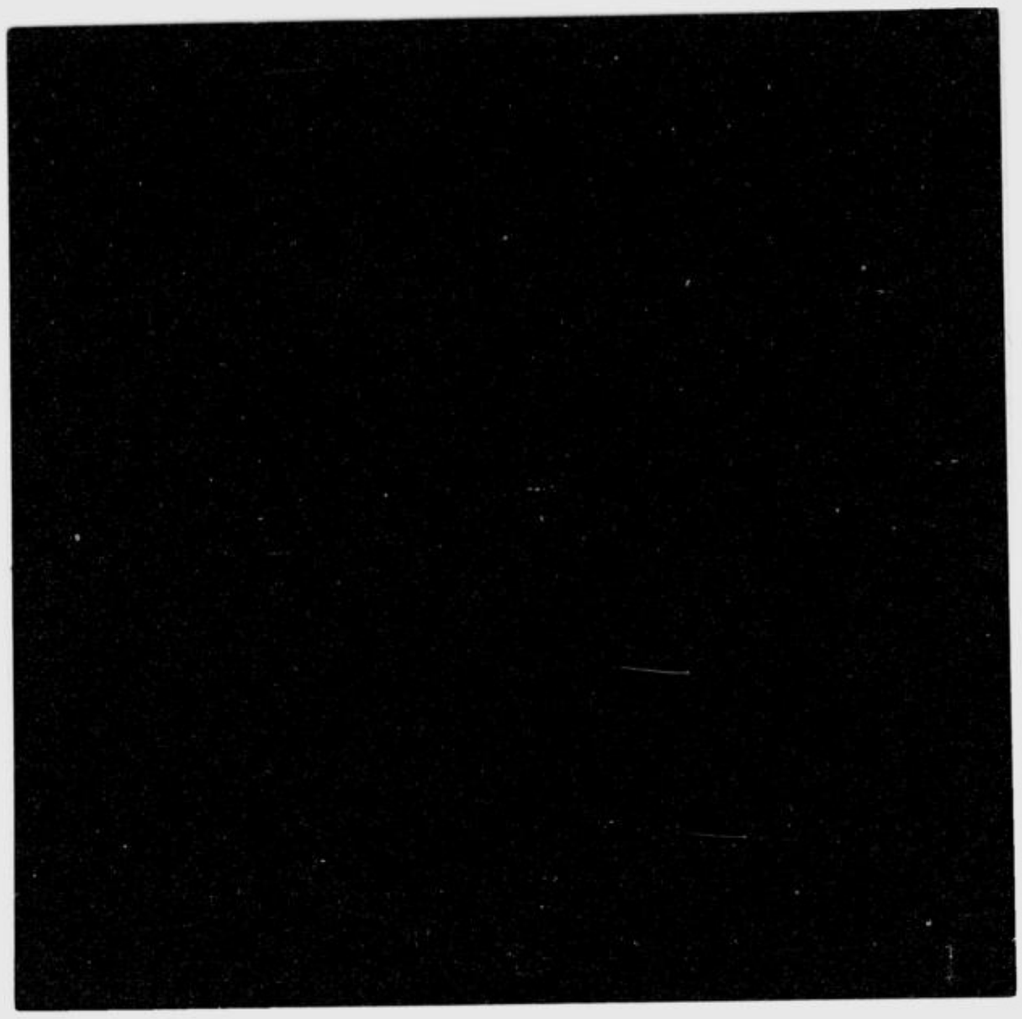

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■ Metro / A23
Diarrhea alert raised in Mandaluyong

■ Sports / A26
NBI agents assigned to NCAA venues

■ World / A8
Another brother of bomb suspect held in Italy

GMA situation likened to Marcos' twilight years

By Volt Contreras and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is pressing familiar panic buttons and using similar survival tactics devised by Ferdinand Marcos to muffle critics, project strength, and stall ouster moves, according to observers.

GMA SITUATION/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Monday, August 1, 2005 ★★ 80 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 234 P18

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Comelec starts probe, but where's Garci?

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION on Elections announced yesterday it had started its investigation into the "Hello Garci" tapes—more than a month after calling for

COMELEC/ A20

Cruz may drop Dy as 'jueteng' witness

Bishop wary about real intention of ex-governor

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

HAS FAUSTINO Dy Jr. become too hot to handle?

The question arose yesterday after Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he was no longer keen on taking the former Isabela governor as a witness to testify against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dy has been mentioned by various INQUIRER informants as being present at a meeting attended by Ms Arroyo and several regional directors of the Commission on Elections during which the poll officials were allegedly paid to ensure her victory in the May 2004 presidential election.

"If I see that he's too hot to handle, then I'll stay away," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Still, the Catholic Church's foremost crusader against "jueteng" operations said he was keeping his options "open."

A highly placed source in Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng organization said the

BISHOP/ A22

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo prays as she hears Mass at the Ermita church in Manila. Her husband, Jose Miguel, who has been linked to "jueteng" payoffs, returned home Sunday from the United States to attend a sister's funeral. He was met by his brother, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. AP/ROGER MARGALLO

Rosales says wrong values at heart of RP problem

By Christian V. Esguerra

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales says he is no great fan of President Macapagal-Arroyo but he doesn't think getting rid of her now is going to do the country any good.

"Is GMA the only corrupt president?" Rosales asked over dinner on Friday with a group of reporters he called to set events of the past two months in the perspective of the powerful Roman Catholic hierarchy.

"Two generations ago, there was a man who ruled us and declared martial law," Rosales said, referring to the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"He ran away with so much money. And have we forgotten? How come no one's talking about it anymore as if it had been solved? It hurts me. This is the bigger crime."

Succeeding administrations of Corazon Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Estrada and now, Ms Arroyo, were no different, Rosales said. They all reeked of "massive corruption."

"I want to evangelize people, not to politicize them," said Rosales, responding to criticism by militant priests and nuns that he is steering the Church away from the activism that has characterized it since the Marcos years.

"I want to change people's mentalities and give them a real orientation in life," said Rosales, who took over as the 31st archbishop of the influential Vatican See of Manila in November 2003.

Rosales, who turns 73 this month, succeeded the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, hero of peaceful revolutions that drove Marcos from power in 1986 and Estrada in 2001.

So-called progressives in the Church hierarchy had expected Rosales to take an active stand similar to that espoused by Cardinal Sin as the nation went through its worst political turmoil in four years of the Arroyo administration.

ROSALES/ A20

First Gentleman returns for sister's burial

By Nikko Dizon and Christine O. Avendaño

THERE was not even the smallest wave or the faintest hint of a smile when he came home from "voluntary exile" yesterday. All he wanted, his lawyer said, was privacy.

After 25 days in the United States and away from the political turmoil at home, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo arrived in Manila at 4:25 p.m. yesterday on board a Cathay Pacific Airways flight from Hong Kong.

He has come home to bury a sister.

And he has come home to mark his and his wife's 37th wedding anniversary.

It will all happen in the midst of allegations linking President Macapagal-Arroyo to election cheating and the First Gentleman to taking gambling payoffs.

"The First Gentleman is hopeful that his family will be given some space and privacy to grieve for the untimely demise of his sister," said a three-paragraph statement distributed to the media at the airport.

Arroyo's half-sister, Rosario "Nucay" Tuason Matute Llora, died of congestive heart failure on Saturday at the age of 71, said the statement distributed by Arroyo's lawyer and spokesperson, Jesus Santos.

Wearing a dark jacket, Arroyo emerged from Gate 7 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, looking visibly sad. He hardly looked at the members of the media who covered his arrival.

This was unlike in the past

FIRST/ A20

Aguirre twins start to walk

VALHALLA, New York—One year after a neurosurgeon separated them by cutting through a section of brain, Carl Aguirre says "Wow!" as he whizzes a toy truck off the tray of his high chair and his brother Clarence holds his nose to let his mother know his diaper is dirty.

After "starting their life over," the formerly conjoined 3-year-old Filipino boys have been amazingly free of significant complications, doctors say, and the separation seems to have triggered their development.

Clarence is about to take his first steps and therapists say Carl will soon follow.

"When they emerged from the OR (operating room) as separate boys, it was almost as if that was their second birth," said Dr. Robert Marion, the boys' pediatrician. "Their motor skills are what you'd expect of a one-year-old. They're starting to walk. They're playing appropriately in the way

AGUIRRE/ A4

ONCE conjoined twins Carl (left) and Clarence Aguirre take a break from physical therapy and share a moment with their mother Arlene. AP

Relief for GMA may be short-lived

ANALYSIS

By Amando Doronila

THE STATE of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo has, for the time being, pulled her from the brink of the gravest crisis of her five-year presidency and allowed her to regain the political initiative.

Ms Arroyo turned the tide of imminent disaster by redirecting, through her Sona, the national agenda toward constitutional change. She regained the initiative without offering any dramatic reform agenda.

But the relief from the siege calling for her resignation could be short-lived.

The key theme that reset the national agenda is encapsulated in these words: "The system clearly needs fundamental change, and the sooner the better. It's time to start the great debate on Charter change."

This theme immediately changed the agenda of debate of Philippine politics. It instantly became the central issue, shifting the focus from the politics of gloom that had swept the country since the disclosure of the "Glo-

RELIEF/ A21

PDI story on education wins award

AN INQUIRER article about a school in Bohol where homework means helping one's parents and school work is something one does in school won the Outstanding Story for Print in the 2005 Lasallian Scholarum Awards.

The annual journalism contest honors print and broadcast media for their outstanding coverage of youth and education issues.

Couple Raul and Cristina Fabella and their daughter Vigile Marie, a freshman at the University of the Philippines School of Economics,

PDI STORY/ A4

CRISTINA Fabella (left), her daughter Vigile Marie and husband Raul show their Lasallian Scholarum trophy after the awards ceremony. At right is Juan V. Sarmiento Jr., editor of the INQUIRER's Talk of the Town section. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/01/05

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bear Stearns report boosts GMA morale

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

FOR EMBATTLED President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies, the good news came when they were most needed.

After she was named by Forbes magazine as the fourth most powerful woman in the world, a US-based investment bank predicted that Ms Arroyo would likely survive the current political crisis and even manage to finish her term in 2010.

For Malacañang, these favorable developments provided a morale boost and the much-needed respite from the scandals and incessant attacks on the beleaguered President.

"It should have a sobering effect on everyone and encourage more sectors to repudiate divisive politics and help President Arroyo bring the country into a condition of greater political and economic stability and national unity," said President Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio.

In a July 22 report, US investment bank Bear Stearns & Co., Inc. predicted that there was a 50-60 percent probability that Ms Arroyo would last until her term ends in 2010 and that this likelihood was stronger than the two other alternative scenarios of a graceful exit via Charter change and impeachment by Congress.

Claudio expressed hope that the US bank assessment would "serve as some kind of reality check" for those people wanting to unseat the President.

For the government, he said the US bank assessment should help officials to realize that "(the administration's) survival and strength will depend on our people, whose interests should therefore be served with even greater humility and dedication."

At the House of Representatives, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles expressed jubilation over the Forbes and US bank reports.

Nograles said the Forbes magazine's recognition and the report of Bear Stearns were the de facto vote of confidence of the international community on the Arroyo administration.

"It's really funny that the international community, banks and Forbes Magazine all say that she is powerful and they are all bullish, while our minority say she has lost the capacity to govern and won't last weeks," said Nograles.

Nograles agreed with Bear Stearns that Ms Arroyo would survive the political crisis and remain in power beyond the Christmas season. He said the country could expect Ms Arroyo to stay in Malacañang for "many Christmases to come."

"We are over the worst of the political crisis," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye made the declaration as he cited the fact that the constitutional process was "taking its course" in reference to Congress' taking action to the impeachment complaint filed against President Arroyo.

READY, AIM, FIRE!
A member of the Special Weapons and Tactics team takes aim at a target during the annual SWAT competition at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. ERIK ARAZAS

Joker blames minority for delay in GMA impeachment

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE "INDOLENCE" of the minority in the Lower House has delayed impeachment proceedings, according to Sen. Joker Arroyo.

"You have to argue from a position of strength. If you don't have the 79 signatures and only promise to produce them later, you're arguing from a weak position," Joker said in a phone interview yesterday.

Apparently expressing the Senate's impatience over the continued failure of the minority to convince a third of the House to endorse the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the senator bluntly told the opposition to observe the dictum, "more work, less talk."

"What the opposition should do now is wake up, buckle down to work, shed off their indolence, stop talking and get the magic 79 endorsements. That done, they can wave the 79 signatures and confront the majority to open the gates," Joker said.

He, however, hinted that the "creeping impeachment"—or the gradual collation of signatures—should be allowed, although the majority in the House are against it.

"That is 1/3 of the House (impeaching the President). Who can argue with that?" said Joker, somewhat echoing the opposition's contention that once the required signatures were gathered, the Articles of Impeachment would automatically be transmitted to the Senate for trial.

Sought for comments, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said: "I think Senator Joker should stop uttering insults against the opposition. He is not a part of it. If he misses being in the opposition, instead of being stuck where he is defending GMA, then why not join the opposition first before issuing irresponsible statements related to the job of the opposition?"

Gonzalez just won't shut up, hits UP this time

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—After his controversial attacks on critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has turned his attention to the University of the Philippines, calling it "a haven for people who seek the downfall of the government."

Gonzalez had called for the review of the UP charter because according to Gonzalez, the university should teach students to be "lawful" and "not to incite people to sedition."

These comments made him unpopular among members of the UP Community.

GONZALEZ

He had earlier received flak for criticizing former President Corazon Aquino, who called for Ms Arroyo to resign, to mind daughter Kris, instead of the affairs of the nation. He later apologized to the former president and Kris for his statements.

Students "should be a bit moderate" in campaigning against the administration because the university and the students' tuition are being funded by the government, Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said a large group of protesters who joined the anti-Arroyo protest actions on July 13 came from the UP Diliman campus.

He added that intelligence reports showed that a contingent that joined the rallies during the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 25 were "billeted" at the university.

"He is misinformed ... careless in his remarks," UP President Emerlinda Roman said, reacting to Gonzalez's statement.

She pointed out that Ms Arroyo had even tapped former UP president Jose Abueva, a foremost advocate of a parliamentary and federal system, to be part of a body that would study the possible constitutional amendments that would lead to a shift in the form of government.

Roman said she saw nothing wrong with UP students joining Sona rallies. "We have been doing that every year," she said in a phone interview.

UP student regent Ken Leonard Ramos said Gonzalez's statement showed "the government's attempt to stifle the voice of UP students."

According to Gretchen Velarde, secretary general of the UP in the Visayas University Student Council, "No one is forcing or teaching us to join protest actions. We protest because we believe there is something wrong and we should not keep silent about it."

Students from UPV's campuses in Miag-ao town in Iloilo and in Iloilo City, Gonzalez's hometown, had been in the forefront of protest actions here.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Palace sets Cha-cha blitz

THE PALACE yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo would bring the Charter change debate to the people since lawmakers, particularly senators, are reluctant to take this up in their chamber. To show that the administration is serious in its bid to explain to the people why the country has to amend the 1987 Constitution now, President Arroyo will enlist the help of two of her Cabinet members. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President intends to tap Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz to "directly assist in the work of explaining the proposed Charter change to various stakeholders." Bunye said that Reyes was being asked to help the President because of his work with local governments while Cruz, for his legal background. "We believe what is important at this stage is to bring the (Charter change) debate to the people and that is what the President will do," Bunye said in a statement.

Christine O. Avendaño

Troops kill 2 suspected NPA rebels

ARMY troops clashed with communist guerrillas early Sunday in a brief but fierce gunbattle that left two rebels dead and a soldier wounded in Ilocos Sur, the military said. An Army reconnaissance team engaged about 15 New People's Army fighters near Santa Lucia, Ilocos Sur, killing two rebels and seizing their assault rifles, according to a military report. An Army corporal was wounded in the clash about 290 km north of Manila, the military said. The rest of the guerrillas withdrew into the nearby hinterlands and were being pursued, it added. The rebels have suspended talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo's government on ending the 36-year-old Marxist insurgency. They have vowed to intensify attacks in an effort to help oust Ms Arroyo, who is facing impeachment over vote-rigging allegations and charges that her family received illegal gambling payoffs.

AP

Capulong in impeachment team

A FORMER judge ad litem in the International Court of Justice has joined the prosecution team of opposition lawmakers who will pin down President Macapagal-Arroyo for her alleged human rights abuses. Veteran human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong said he was tapped by party-list representatives who signed the impeachment complaint to help them prove that Ms Arroyo was liable for the deaths of seven Hacienda Luisita workers and many militant leaders. Capulong, a private prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, said he agreed to appear with lawyer Neri Colmenares, one of those who drafted the amended complaint, during the hearings in the House committee on justice. Capulong, whose term in the International Court ended in June, said he would use an international jurisprudence against Ms Arroyo saying that a head of State who was aware of rights abuses but did nothing to stop them was liable for human rights violation. "It's that same theory we adopted against (Ferdinand) Marcos when we filed a case against him. Marcos may not have ordered the killings but because of the evidence of pattern and practice, we were able to establish that it was a policy," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. He said he had many witnesses who will also establish a "pattern and practice" of human rights violations under the Arroyo government. "Her culpability is clear. Aside from being the commander in chief, she is the immediate superior of the one who issued these orders because Sto. Tomas is her alter ego," he said.

Blanche S. Rivera

NDF execs may lose immunity, says Confessor

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WAS the turn of government chief negotiator Nieves Confessor to warn officials of the communist National Democratic Front that they "stand to lose so much," including their immunity guarantees, following their decision to pull out from the peace talks.

But Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said Malacañang should first make it clear whether it received a formal letter of withdrawal from the NDF because as far as he knows, the peace talks had been postponed and that Jalandoni was merely issuing a "political statement."

Last July 21, Jalandoni told the INQUIRER that the Utretcht-based NDF panel saw no point in resuming peace talks with the Arroyo administration because "it was not going to last very long."

Jalandoni said it would rather wait for a new government to emerge.

Jalandoni's statement prompted Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to say that the government would immediately abrogate the Joint Agreements on Security and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) that allowed top communist officials to move unimpeded while peace negotiations were going on.

Expressing regret over the NDF's withdrawal from the talks, Confessor said the government was not surprised by the move and noted that this "unmasked the real face of their intention in the negotiations."

She said the NDF "stands to lose much from closing the door to the peace talks," adding that this would "endanger the gains they have already made, especially the political space provided under The Hague Joint Declaration and other signed agreements."

Confessor added: "Their members and leaders will also lose their safety and immunity guarantees they currently enjoy under the Jasig which is being enforced to allow peace negotiations."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Police tighten security in Metro following Mindanao blasts

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE National Capital Region Police Office has intensified security measures in Metro Manila, particularly around shopping malls and other key areas, following the explosions in Cotabato City and Koronadal City on Saturday, which wounded four persons.

"We will deploy additional policemen in areas where people gather," NCRPO public information officer Supt. Agrimero Cruz told reporters in Camp Crame yesterday afternoon.

He said regular beat patrols would be reinforced by operatives from the Regional Special Action Unit.

Commuters and mall goers will also have to brace themselves for stricter inspections at shopping malls and rail stations, he added.

Philippine National Police chief Director Gen. Arturo Lomibao has ordered tighter security on all vital installations in the country.

He also instructed policemen to reinforce police precincts and stations vulnerable to attacks, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said.

On Saturday, a bomb exploded in Cotabato City, wounding a 13-year-old student. A second bomb went off near the Koronadal City public market, injuring three people.

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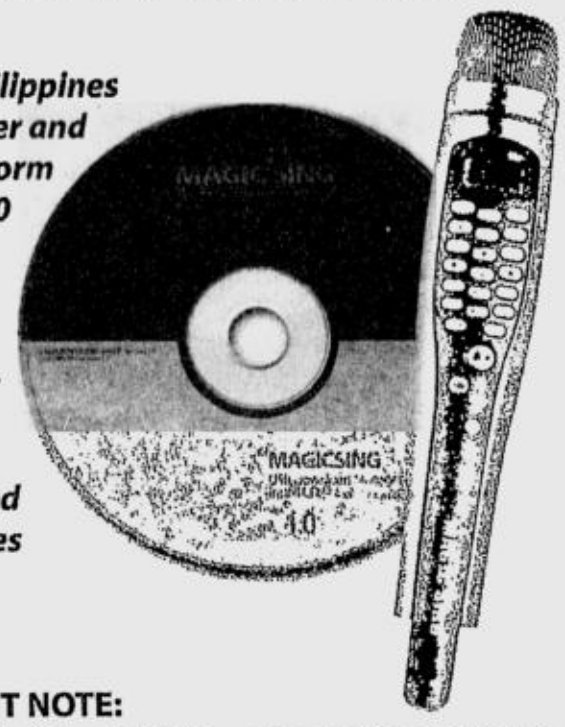

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Aguirre twins start to walk

From page A1

that a one-year-old would. Their speech, also, is like that of a one-year-old."

Until Aug. 4, 2004, when they underwent the fourth in a series of major operations at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx borough of New York City, Carl and Clarence had been unable to sit up, stand straight or see each other's face.

Joined at the top of their heads, they were limited to lying on their backs, which stunted their development and subjected them to chronic pneumonia caused by inhaling food into their lungs.

"They were going to die," Marion said. "And now seeing them with unlimited potential, it's the most gratifying experience I've ever had in medicine."

The boys and their mother, Arlene, came to New York in 2003, when Montefiore agreed to take the boys' case for free—it has cost more than $3 million so far—and the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla agreed to donate housing and therapy.

Gradual approach

The Children's Hospital team of neurosurgeon Dr. James Goodrich and plastic surgeon Dr. David Staffenberg undertook a gradual approach to the separation, pushing apart the brains and dividing the blood vessels in four operations between October 2003 and August 2004.

In between, the boys were given time to heal. It was a departure from the more common single marathon operation.

During the final operation, the surgeons found that the boys' brains, which scans had indicated were abutting but separate, were actually shared and seamless at one point.

Dreading whatever complications he might cause, Goodrich studied and consulted and finally found a place to cut where veins seemed to go in opposite directions.

"I am not a religious person," Goodrich said last week. "But I do think there was something guiding us along there."

Marion said Carl suffered some seizures in the month after the separation, but Goodrich said his principal fears—neurological problems and liquid on the brain—did not develop.

During a reporter's recent visit to Blythedale, Clarence walked proudly, holding onto a therapist with one hand and pushing his own stroller with the other. He was so energetic that at one point he stepped out of his pants and staff members had to find him a belt.

Meanwhile, Carl stood, a bit unsteadily, to play a bead game on a table.

Later, the boys laughed as they tumbled down a padded slide together. Though their skulls have not yet been reconstructed—doctors don't want to interrupt their therapy—and specially designed plastic helmets haven't fit well, the doctors say the boys' heads are protected well enough by their bandages, even for horseplay.

Arlene Aguirre tried to hide while she watched her sons' therapy session, because when they catch sight of her the boys want to do nothing but cuddle.

"Both of them want my attention all the time," she said. "But it's very exciting that I have to deal with two children ... Before the separation, I was thinking, 'Will I ever see them again?'"

She says she is encouraged when she hears Clarence say "yogurt" and call his brother by name. Carl says such words as "walk" and "mama" and both boys use sign language to convey such phrases as "please more eat."

Verbal skills

Although both had been declared fit, doctors were determining why Carl's verbal skills lagged behind those of Clarence, according to the medical update posted on Montefiore's CHAM website.

"Since Carl's verbal skills seem to be lagging behind Clarence's, we wanted to examine him again," said Dr. Sanjay Parikh, pediatric ear, nose and throat specialist. "We are still working on reasons why."

Aguirre expects to move from Blythedale soon and set up a household with the boys, who will enroll in the school's day program. She hopes to eventually return to Silay City in the Philippines.

"My friends and family, I want to share the boys with them," she said. "It will be so exciting to go back there, holding one boy with each hand."

The success of the operation has brought honors for Goodrich and Staffenberg, although Goodrich says the best prize he's received is a Montefiore parking space. They are constantly invited to speak or write about the procedure and it has been published in journals for neurosurgery, plastic surgery and anesthesia. *Reports from AP and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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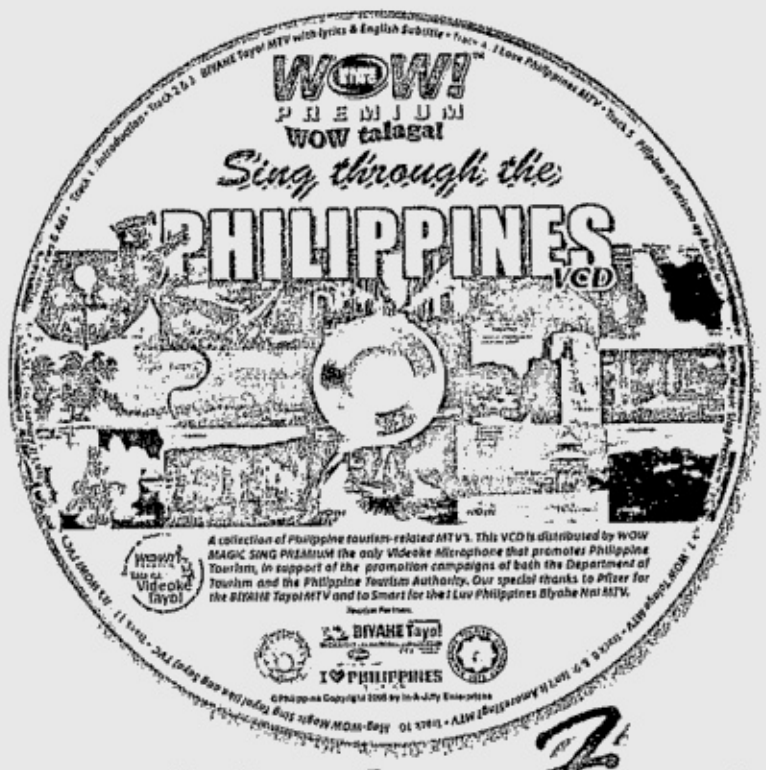

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PDI story ...

From page A1

received the award on July 29 for their article "Learning by doing could revolutionize RP education." They received P25,000 and a Ramon Orlina-crafted trophy.

The winning piece appeared in the INQUIRER's Talk of the Town section on Feb. 20.

"Learning by doing" is part of the Dynamic Learning Process (DLP) at the Central Visayan Institute (CVI), a private high school in Jagna, a port town 63 km east of Tagbilaran City. The school is run by the Bernidos—Christopher, director of studies, and Maria Victoria, principal, both of whom have doctorates in Physics.

"[T]he basic feature of the DLP, the heavy emphasis on 'learning by doing,' radical trust in the youth's capacity to learn, learning as pseudo-play, and unparalleled transparency through simultaneous instruction are all accessible without the idiosyncratic features of CVI. Great courage is still required to push DLP," wrote the Fabellas, who visited the school while on vacation last December.

They said the Bernidos made numerous enemies before being allowed to settle on the gentler side of fury. "Theirs is an undeclared war against the Filipino disease of taking the path of least resistance."

Judges

The board of judges for this year's Lasallian Scholarum awards included Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Governance; Dr. Isagani Cruz, Palanca Hall of Fame Awardee; Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, 1999 Cultural Center of the Philippines' Centennial Honors for the Arts and 1993 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts; Chichi Robles, a veteran broadcaster; Jose Mari Magpayo, De La Salle University-Manila Marketing Communication executive director; and Yolanda Ong, Campaigns & Grey's Group chair.

Sheila Coronel, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, was the chair of the board of judges.

The 2005 Lasallian Scholarum Awards received a total of 150 entries for Published Feature Story, Published Photograph, Televised Feature Story, Published Feature Story in a School Organ, and Published/Televised Feature Story on DLSU-Manila.

For the first category, there were 14 finalists. Ann Bernadette Corvera of the The Philippine Star received an honorable mention citation for her article, "Seeing through computers."

The Outstanding Published Photograph was awarded to Ali Vicoy of the Manila Bulletin for his entry "Mangyan Boy." He received P25,000 and a trophy.

Rizal in Europe

The Outstanding Televised Feature Story was awarded to Howie Severino for "Little Bad Boy: Binatang Rizal sa Europa." He received P25,000 and a trophy.

The Outstanding Feature Story in a School Organ was awarded to Ray John Bangi of San Beda College for his article, "Beleaguered CAP, Beleaguered Future." He received P15,000 and a trophy.

Froilan Vincent Bersamina of the University of the East received an honorable mention citation.

Eden Estopace of The Philippine Star won the Oustanding Feature Story on DLSU-Manila for her story, "Text messaging for the blind: Proudly Filipino." She received P40,000 and a trophy.

Alvin Sejera of IBC 13 was awarded the honorable mention citation for his TV feature on text messaging.

At the awarding ceremony at The Peninsula Manila in Makati City, Bro. Armin Luistro FSC, DLSU president, said the awards were meant to provide recognition to media practitioners who have focused on two key concerns that constitute the core of the Lasallian mission—youth and education.

"Much like the time of our founder, St. John Baptist de la Salle, the issues, which confront the youth and our educational system, are enormous," Luistro said in his closing remarks.

Enlightening reportage

While the participation rate in basic education remains remarkably high, the country faces many challenges in the quality of instruction and the depth of learning in many public and private schools, he said.

"We are aware of the alarming results in high school readiness tests, the unenviable poor standing of our students in worldwide aptitude tests, and the persistent deficiency of many schools in resources, e.g., teachers, desks, classrooms and toilets. Faced with these difficulties, we must admit the gnawing and silent crisis in Philippine education that denies many of the young the opportunities to develop their full potential," Luistro said.

He said the stories that "we recognize today are truthful accounts of prolonged and vital problems, or exhaustive and enlightening reportage of the power of the human spirit in addressing the same concerns.

"Through the work of the recipients and finalists of this year's Lasallian Scholarum Awards, we have a better understanding of the concerns of the young and the role that education plays in guiding our response."

Children have no future under GMA, say militants

By Alcuin Papa

THE FUTURE of millions of Filipino children under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Bright Child campaign may not be so bright after all, according to militant student groups.

Anak ng Bayan Youth Party Vice President Raymond Palatino yesterday said Ms Arroyo's own education and domestic policies were the biggest stumbling block to the Filipino children's bright future.

Last Friday, the President launched her Bright Child campaign offering a package of interventions on health and nutrition, early education and psycho-social programs aimed at ensuring the optimum growth and development of Filipino children aged 0 to 17 years.

"How can Arroyo provide a bright future for the young if her own education policies drive more and more students out of school every year?" Palatino pointed out.

"Some of these children will grow up to be bright adults in the future, but if current education and labor export policies [continue to be] implemented, they may soon join the best and the brightest who have left the country to work abroad," he added.

The dismal state of classrooms and facilities, the severe shortage of teachers in public elementary and high schools, he said, could be attributed to the government's poor education spending.

The Arroyo government's budget for education is the lowest in Asia. It is only 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), not even half of the prescribed minimum standard for education spending set by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), which is 6 percent of GDP.

The country's average spending for education also falls short of Asia's average of 3.3 percent.

Submit 2006 budget to Congress early, Villar urges Malacañang

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. yesterday pressed Malacañang to submit the 2006 budget early for congressional approval if only to show to the world that it was running the country's affairs smoothly despite the current political turmoil.

While the executive department has 30 days after the President's July 25 State of the Nation Address (Sona) to submit the budget, Villar said it would be better for the country if this were presented earlier for deliberation.

"The sooner they submit the budget, the better for us because it will give us more time to scrutinize and deliberate on it," said Villar, chair of the Senate committee on finance, which leads the deliberations on the national budget.

Villar also sought a stop to the executive department's notorious practice of submitting the budget late.

"If it were up to me only, I hope the budget would be approved and passed this year. But the thing is, in the last few years, we have adopted a bad system of passing the budget late for the year itself when it would be used," he said.

"It's not good at all and we should do away with that practice," he added.

In her Sona, President Macapagal-Arroyo surprisingly made no mention of the budget, focusing instead on her proposal for a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

The national budget for 2003 was reenacted for 2004 after long drawn-out deliberations in the House of Representatives. To avert a similar predicament, the Senate adopted in toto in March the House-approved version of the 2005 budget.

Villar stressed that the executive department should not allow itself to be distracted by the crisis confronting the President stemming from allegations that she rigged last year's presidential elections and that her family was involved in corruption.

The budget, he said, "is the single-most important" law that is passed by Congress every year.

"In fact, it would be good if we can show our people and the rest of the world that even while we are in the midst of a political and fiscal crisis, we are running our government efficiently," Villar said.

"The best way of showing that is by having our national budget for 2006 passed before the end of this year," he added.

But the House is currently preoccupied with the impeachment complaint filed against the President.

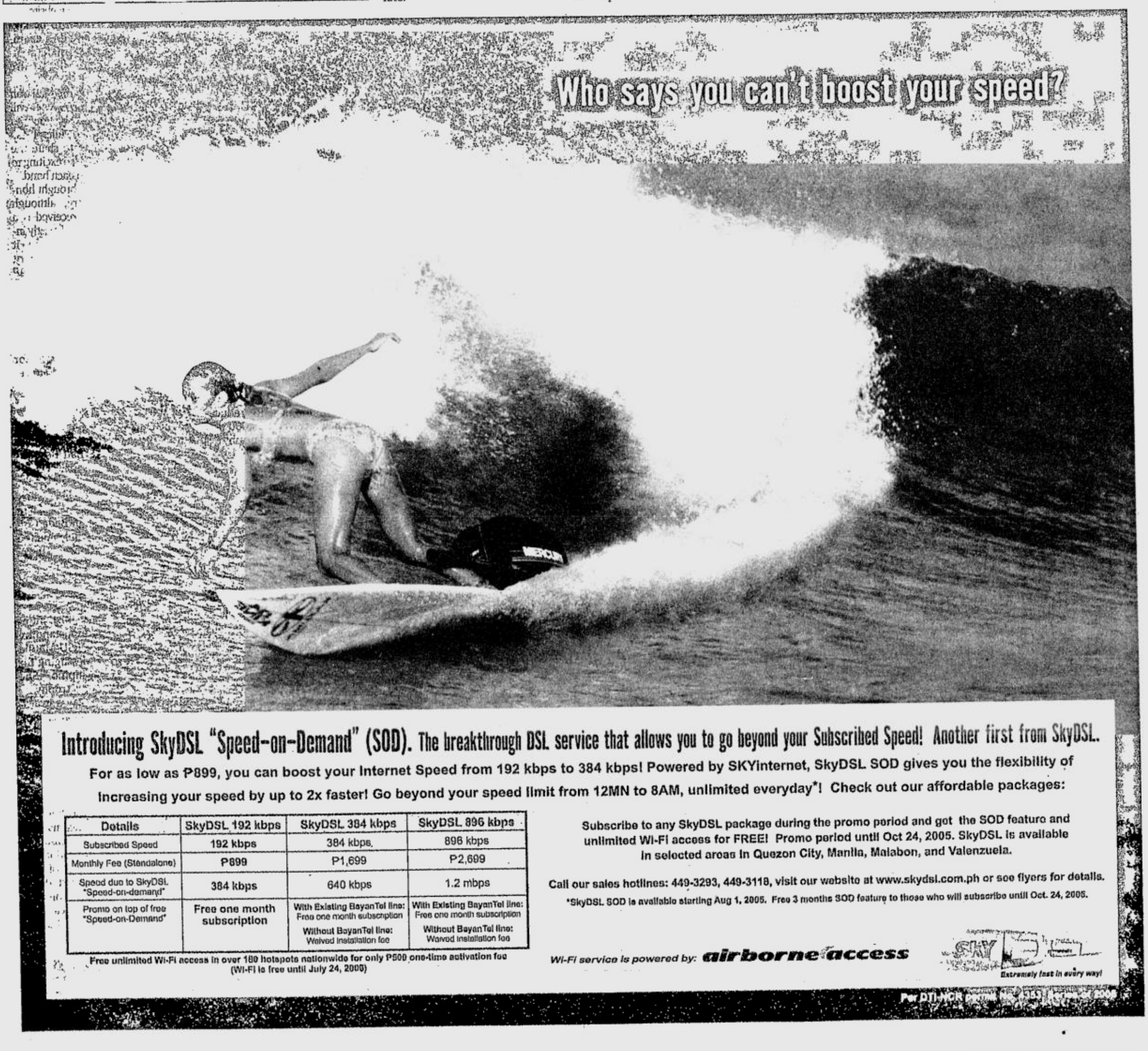
Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., for his part, said the success of passing a new budget hinged on the administration lawmakers.

"The passing of the budget is the call of the administration. We'll see how they go about it. If they fail to pass it, we have to live with a reenacted budget," he said in an interview.

Pimentel wondered who would "call the shots" during budget deliberations in the Senate since Senate President Franklin Drilon and two other Liberal Party senators broke ties with the President last month.

"There's no administration bloc anymore. You don't know who's going to run the show... who's going to call the shots," he said.

Drilon, together with Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and 17 other LP members, broke away and joined former President Corazon Aquino, 10 resigned Cabinet men and the Makati Business Club in calling on Ms Arroyo to step down.



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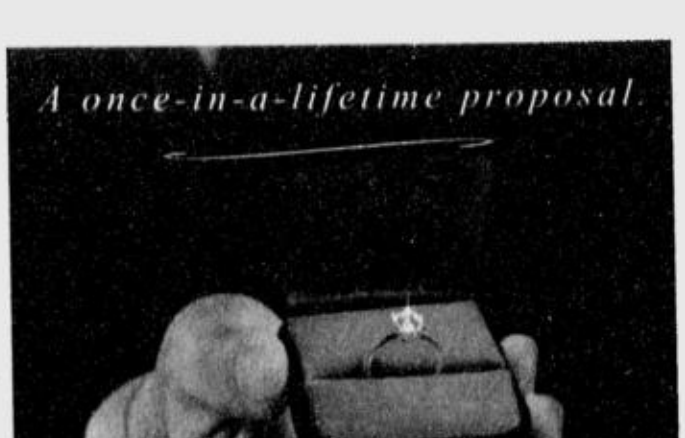

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In the Name of God, The Beneficent, The Merciful

MANIFESTO

On Elections and Governance in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

IS THE ARMM WORTH THE BLOOD OF OUR MARTYRS?

Once again, on 08 August 2005, the ARMM will hold an electoral exercise to choose leaders who will govern the region. It is in this regard that we, the Bangsamoro Civil Society, raise our voices.

The Sad State of the ARMM

The Moro People were told and promised that ARMM would herald an era of peace and prosperity in the region. But rather than improve, we have only seen and experienced the living conditions progressively deteriorate. A decade and a half since the inception of the ARMM:

- 2 out of 3 of our people in the region still live below the poverty line;
- only 1 out of 10 schoolchildren get to complete basic education;
- despite the Final Peace Agreement with the MNLF and on-going peace talks with the MILF, major outbreaks of fighting, including 2 all-out wars in 2000 and 2003 occurred;
- 1.3 million Moros were uprooted by these two all-out wars;
- the ARMM comprise 4% of the national population, and yet it only contributes less than 1% of the country's Gross Domestic Product, despite the abundance of natural resources;
- the region's economy can only provide 4% of its annual budgetary requirements;

Is this the kind of Autonomous Government hundreds of thousands of our people have died for?

A Call to Those Who Aspire to be Our Leaders in the ARMM

The fourth Caliph, Ali ibn Abu Talib, instructed Malik ibn Ashtar Al-Nakha'I before dispatching him to Egypt as its governor:

"Know, O Malik that I am sending you to a country which has been subjected before you to both just and unjust rulers, and so the people who judged your predecessors will now judge you in the same way. Therefore, let your good works be your true assets.

Discipline yourself, and covet not that which is not rightfully yours.

Train your heart to feel compassion for the people, to love them and be kind to them.

Do not behave like a ferocious beast towards them, snatching away their sustenance, for the people is of two categories: they are your brothers in religion and your fellow human beings."

We remind those who aspire to be our leaders that:

- the apathy of our people towards the ARMM is borne out of the inability of previous ARMM leaderships to improve their lives.
- you will never enjoy our people's confidence unless you have a clear, coherent, and doable program of action and policy.
- the privilege and burden of governing us is imbued with *Amanah* (Trust)
- you are divinely accountable for your actions and inactions.

To the Bangsamoro People

The Bangsamoro People must stake their claim in ARMM governance, as a right and as a duty. Good Governance is an Islamic principle. The pursuit of Good Governance is an Islamic duty.

We understand the apathy towards autonomy and the regional government. But, we ask you to bear in mind that:

- The ARMM was established with the blood, sweat and tears of the Bangsamoro
- Apathy, cynicism and defeatist attitude towards ARMM governance and elections desecrates the sacrifice the Bangsamoro people have made and undermines our future as a people.

We owe it to those who have died in the struggle and those who continue to wallow in hunger and ignorance to make the ARMM work.

Our Agenda, Our Vision: Good Governance

AGENDA I - EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF POWER

A. Exercise and optimize the powers and functions of the ARMM.
B. Strengthen Local Government in the component territories
C. Enhance the ARMM Revenue Base
D. Connect the Region

AGENDA II - EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION

A. Rationalize Fiscal Management
B. Minimize, if not Eliminate, Corruption
C. Generate Public Accountability

AGENDA III – DELIVERY OF SERVICES

A. Enhance the Delivery of Education, Health and other Regional Government Services
B. Recognition of the Role of Women in Peace Building, Good Governance and Sustainable Development
C. Promote Minority Rights, Welfare and Protection
D. Pursue Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Initiatives
E. Assert its Stake in and Support the Peace Process
F. Institute Indigenous/Alternative Modes of Local Conflict Resolution

These Agenda can be immediately undertaken under the present autonomous set-up to address the more pressing concerns of the Bangsamoro in the ARMM. It will arrest the deterioration of the quality of life of the Moros, at the very least.

Insha Allah, we pray to find the moral courage, resolve and fortitude to liberate ourselves from our present predicament.

Caucus on Muslim Mindanao Affairs (COMMA)

• Al-Mujadillah Development Foundation, Inc. • Bangsamoro Women's Solidarity Forum •
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 1, 2005
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Num 11:4-15
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-36

After the crowds had eaten their fill, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. At nightfall, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was very far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.

At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus said to them, "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water."

Jesus said to him, "Come." And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. But, in face of the strong wind, he was afraid and began to sink. So he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As they got into the boat, the wind dropped. Then those in the boat bowed down before Jesus saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God!"

They came ashore at Gennesareth. The local people recognized Jesus and spread the news throughout the region. So they brought all the sick to him, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. All who touched it became perfectly well.

Commentary

The disciples are sent off in the boat, and Jesus goes off to pray. But the boat is rocked by waves and wind against it. Terrified by the storm first, then they are terrified by Jesus coming to them on the water. But his words: "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" causes Peter to climb out and come towards Jesus. Initially elated, the waves rise and Peter gives in to his fear and cries out "Lord, save me!" And he is grasped by the hand and chided—for his doubt, even as he could still see Jesus right in front of him. This is the story of most Christians' lives: rocked by circumstances and events, terrified of God's presence, encouraged by the words of God and then we initially rush forward to be overcome again in doubt, letting our fears control us. When will we learn to lean on and lean into the presence of our God in word and strength?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)—Petition for possessory writ in foreclosure proceedings—An ex parte petition for the issuance of a possessory writ under Section 7 of Act No. 3135 is not, strictly speaking, a "judicial process" as contemplated in Article 433 of the Civil Code. It is a judicial proceeding for the enforcement of one's right of possession as purchaser in a foreclosure sale. It is not an ordinary suit filed in court, by which one party "sues another for the enforcement of a wrong or protection of a right, or the prevention or redress of a wrong." It is a nonlitigious proceeding authorized in an extrajudicial foreclosure of mortgage pursuant to Act No. 3135, as amended. It is brought for the benefit of one party only, and without notice to, or consent by any person adversely interested. It is a proceeding where the relief is granted without an opportunity for the person against whom the relief is sought to be heard. No notice is needed to be served upon persons interested in the subject property. Hence, there is no necessity of giving notice to the petitioners since they had already lost all their interests in the property when they failed to redeem the same. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Spouses De Vera v. Agloro, G. R. No. 155673, January 15, 2005) DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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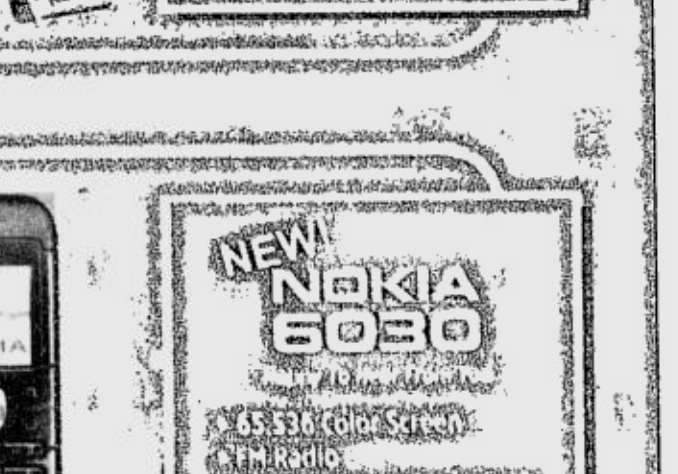

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Another brod of alleged bomber held in Italy

ROME—Police in northern Italy on Sunday arrested another brother of the London bombings suspect jailed in Rome, on charges of destroying documents sought by investigators, the Italian news agency Ansa reported.

Police in Brescia said they weren't authorized to talk about the report, saying the issue was now in the hands of local prosecutors, who weren't answering their phones.

Ansa said the brother, Fati Issac, had been interrogated for hours by antiterrorism police at a police station in Brescia, a northern industrial city.

On Friday, Italian police arrested Osman Hussain, whom they described as the fourth bomber sought by Britain in the botched bombings of three trains and a bus on July 21. They also arrested a brother, in whose Rome apartment Hussain was found after an international manhunt.

Ansa said Fati Issac was accused of hiding or destroying documents investigators considered important to the investigation, but it gave no details.

On Saturday, Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said searches were under way throughout Italy to track down any accomplices of Hussain who might have helped him in his flight from London.

Italian media which reported the arrest of the brother of Rome on Friday had identified that brother as Remzi Isaac. It was not immediately clear why the last names were spelled differently.

The same reports have said that Hussain changed his family name several years ago when he applied for asylum and citizenship from Britain. Hussain is Ethiopian-born.

In Madrid, Spain's intelligence chief said in an interview published Sunday that July's terrorist attacks in London differed from last year's Madrid train bombings in their apparent coordination.

Alberto Saiz, the director of the National Intelligence Center, told the daily El Pais that similarities between the attacks were limited to "their outward appearance" and targeting of transport networks.

"At that point, the differences start," Saiz was quoted as saying. The July 7 group of London bombers was "small, just four people—less visible than the Madrid one."

"Two weeks later, they try a second episode of the same attack—obviously, the perpetrators are not the same," Saiz said.

"In contrast to Madrid, this gives us the sensation that they are coordinated with other groups or have direction from above—and that there is a plan," he added. "This is not an isolated group that decides to act on its own account—the decision comes from above."

The March 2004 bombings of commuter trains in Madrid killed 191 people and injured more than 1,500. The July 7 suicide bombings in London killed 52 victims on three subway trains and a bus. Botched bombing attempts on similar targets July 21 rattled Londoners' nerves but took no lives.

The Madrid attacks "surprised us all in terms of their form," Saiz told El Pais. The people behind them "formed a local group, with no apparent connection to the leadership of al-Qaida, at least no direct connection." *AP*

PEOPLE wade through a flooded street in Bombay, India, on Sunday. AP

Rains hamper relief work; death toll to reach 1,000

BOMBAY, India—Authorities warned residents to remain at home on Sunday after heavy rains began falling again across Bombay and the surrounding state, which were hammered last week by devastating floods.

Cleanup efforts and the distribution of food supplies to needy residents were badly slowed by the renewed monsoon rains, which began early Sunday morning. Aviation officials ordered the city's airports, the busiest in the country, closed because of poor visibility. The airports reopened at around noon after a seven-hour shutdown.

Officials said the death toll from the recent rains could reach 1,000.

The recovery over the weekend of more than 100 bodies pushed the official death toll to 899. On Sunday, officials said more bodies were likely to be recovered from the flood-devastated Raigad district.

"The bodies are still coming out. There will be another 100 or so," said K. Vatsa, state rehabilitation secretary. "The toll will definitely be around 1,000."

With renewed rains pounding at the city, the Bombay police issued an alert cautioning people to stay home due to rising water levels.

"We're asking people to travel only if essential," said Bombay's police chief A.N. Roy.

Five days after crippling rains pounded western India—reaching a record 94 cm in suburban Bombay—soldiers, civil defense teams and aid workers continued to find bodies from the state's worst-affected districts: Raigad, Ratnagiri, Thane, Parbhani, Nanded and Kolhapur.

But incessant rainfall and mounds of debris, boulders and mud tangled into the wooden and tin remains of people's homes was making it a challenge to pull out the remaining bodies.

"The rains are making retrieval difficult," Vatsa said.

Nearly 200 medical teams from Bombay have set out for more than 300 villages across the state. Civic authorities have deployed health workers in the Bombay suburbs to distribute medicines and disinfectants to guard against the spread of waterborne diseases.

As many as 418 people were killed in Bombay—most of them drowned, buried by landslides, or electrocuted. *AP*

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China bans reporters from site of disease

HONG KONG—Chinese authorities have banned local reporters from visiting areas where an outbreak of a pig-borne disease has killed 34 farmers, ordering newspapers to use dispatches from the state news agency, a Hong Kong newspaper reported Sunday.

A total of 174 confirmed or suspected cases have been linked to the bacteria streptococcus suis in China's southwestern Sichuan province, where farmers who handled or butchered infected pigs have been sickened in dozens of villages and towns. Symptoms include nausea, fever, vomiting, and bleeding under the skin.

Sichuan authorities have ordered local journalists to stay away from locations where the disease has surfaced, and told newspapers to carry stories as issued by the official Xinhua News Agency, including the headline, Hong Kong's Ming Pao Daily News reported.

Calls to Sichuan's provincial government headquarters in Chengdu seeking confirmation of the media ban went unanswered.

Beijing was heavily criticized during its SARS outbreak for its reluctance to release information. *AP*

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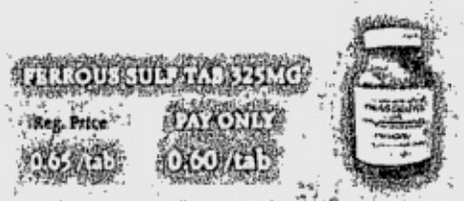

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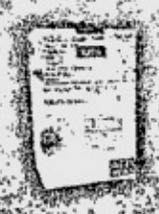
FERROUS SUL TAB 325MG	0.65/tab	0.60/tab

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
BEAR BRAND PDR MILK 1800	99.25	98.00
BEAR BRAND PDR MILK 900G	46.25	45.50
BEAR BRAND PDR MILK 2000G	167.50	162.25
BEAR BRAND PDR MILK 900G	95.75	88.75
BEAR BRAND PDR MILK 370G	39.75	37.75

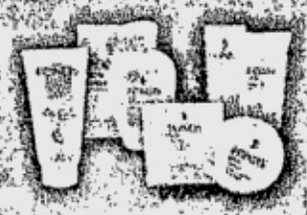
	Reg. Price/cap	PAY ONLY/cap
QUILLVITE CAP 100IU	7.50	7.25
QUILLVITE CAP 200IU	11.50	10.90
QUILLVITE CAP 400IU	28.00	26.50

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
OPSTAR TAB	20.00/tab	6.40/tab

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
ZOTON TAB	100/tab	50/tab



	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
TAMILOSAN M SPR SOL 15ML	268.75	255.25



	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
POND'S SKINWHTNG CR 25ML	58.75	55.75
POND'S PLATE CTG	38.00	36.00
POND'S SKINWHTNG CR 50ML	101.75	96.00
POND'S SKINWHTNG LOTION 70ML	62.75	59.00
POND'S SKINWHTNG LIQUID 20ML	10.00	9.75

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
UCARE 123 PDR MILK 1800	51.75	50.00
UCARE 123 PDR MILK 900G	112.50	109.00
UCARE 123 PDR MILK 2400	207.75	201.50

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
NIVEA BODY WHTNG CR 100ML	100.75	97.70
NIVEA CR 150ML	89.00	86.25
NIVEA CR 75ML	59.50	57.75
NIVEA CR 30ML	104.50	99.25
NIVEA BODY INTMHLTHNG CR 100ML	149.25	143.75
NIVEA WHTNG CR 200ML	252.50	245.50
ANMUM MLK PDR CHOCO 1800	109.25	105.50
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ANMUM PDR MLK 1KG	80.75	77.00
ANMUM PDR CHOC HI PROTEIN 400G	58.00	30.75
ANMUM PDR MLK HI CALCIUM 400G	49.00	47.75

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT NB 62	134.75	115.00
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT S 60	204.75	184.25
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT S 42	129.75	115.00
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT M 72	204.75	184.25
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT M 48	204.75	184.25
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT L 40	127.75	115.00
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT XL 30	204.75	184.25
HUGGIES DRY COMFORT XL 18	162.50	146.25
HUGGIES DRY L 28	106.50	95.75
HUGGIES DRY M 36	162.50	146.25
HUGGIES DRY M 24	149.50	134.50
HUGGIES DRY XL 16	96.75	87.00
HUGGIES DRY XL 8	167.75	150.75

	Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
OSUR PCL PEARL CR 15G	22.90	20.90
OSUR PCL PEARL CR 30G	22.90	20.90
OSUR OMEGA PEARL TAB 100	37.90	33.90
OSUR OMEGA PEARL TAB 50	24.90	21.90

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

ANTITUBERCULOSIS

	Reg. Price	
Per pack: 1 Ethonah tab, 1 Nyadin tab, 1 Ricyn cap, Per Ethonah tab Ethambutol HCl 800mg, Per Nyadin tab Isontasid 400mg, Per Ricyn cap Rifampicin 450mg		
* CONTINUKIT BLISTER PACK	33.50	31.75
Per Pack 1 Rifzin tab, 1 Ethonah tab, 2 Zapedia tab, Per Rifzin tab Rifampicin 450mg, INH 400mg, Per Ethonah tab Ethambutol HCl 800mg, Per Zapedia tab Pyrazinamide 750mg		
* ECONOKIT-MDR	40.50	38.25
Ethambutol		
* PHAREX ETHAMBUTOL TAB 400MG	4.75	4.50
INH		
* PHAREX ISONIAZID TAB 400MG	2.10	1.90
Pyrazinamide		
* PHAREX PYRAZINAMIDE TAB 500MG	4.20	3.95
* ZAPEDIA SUSP 250MG/5ML 120ML	133.75	127.00
* ZAPEDIA SUSP 250MG/5ML 60ML	79.75	75.75
Rifampicin		
* PHAREX RIFAMPICIN CAP 450MG	13.75	13.00
Rifampicin 450MG, INH 400MG		
* RIFZIN TAB	20.50	19.25
Ambroxol HCl		
* ATRIVEX SYR (DRP) 7.5MG/ML 15ML	50.00	45.00
* ATRIVEX SYR 15MG/5ML 60ML	54.50	49.00

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	Reg. Price	
Azelastine HCl		
* AZEP NASAL SPR 0.1% 10ML	537.50	510.00

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	Reg. Price	
Camphor, chamomile conc. cineol, menthol, sage oil		
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* COVERSYL TAB 2MG	36.00	34.00
* COVERSYL TAB 4MG	36.00	34.00
Metronidazole		
* PHAREX METRONIDAZOLE TAB 500MG	10.00	9.50

Per DOH FAD Permit No. 0510 s 2005

P 5.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE — 15mL Inf Drops — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 7.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE — 120mL Syrup — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 5.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOX — Centrum Complete Tab 12's — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 7.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE — Carbocisteine Lovisol Ped Syr 100mg 120mL — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 7.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE — Carbocisteine Lovisol Ad Susp 120mL — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 4.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE — CHILDREN'S CLUSIVOL syrup 60mL — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P6.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE — CHILDREN'S CLUSIVOL syrup 120mL — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 2.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOX — Tablet 10's — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

P 15.00 Off WHEN YOU BUY ONE(1) CAN OF — 900g — PROMO PERIOD: Aug 1 to Oct. 31, 2005

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SAIGON	$259
SYDNEY/MELBOURNE	$380
BRISBANE/PERTH	$380
AUKLAND	$610
LOS ANGELES	$609
SAN FRANCISCO	$760
HONOLULU	$610
NEWARK	$709
EUROPE	$710

DOMESTIC PACKAGE	
BOHOL PKG	P 5265
BORACAY PKG	P 6635
DAVAO PKG	P 4900
CEBU PKG	P 3690
PALAWAN PKG	P 5580
DAKAK PKG	P 7115

INT'L PACKAGE	
3D2N SHENZHEN	$ 109
3D2N HKG+SHENZHEN	$ 118
MALAYSIA PKG	$ 295
BANGKOK PKG	$ 178
SINGAPORE PKG	$ 260
XIAMEN PKG	$ 233
SAIGON PKG	$ 318
SHANGHAI PKG	$ 446
HOLYLAND PKG	$ 1681
DISNEYLAND/HKG+SZN	$ 258

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SINGAPORE PACKAGE	$ 245
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SIN + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA	$ 295
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA	$ 372
KUALA LUMPUR Pkg	$ 266
JAKARTA Pkg	$ 360
BALI Pkg	$ 356
Xiamen Package	$ 230
SHANGHAI Pkg	$ 385
BEIJING Pkg	$ 530
GUAM Pkg	$ 338
SAIPAN Pkg	$ 345
PALAU Pkg	$ 410
SYDNEY Pkg	$ 605

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BANGKOK	$ 178
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KUALA LUMPUR	$ 234
AUSTRALIA	$ 389
LOS ANGELES	$ 590
SAN FRANCISCO	$ 590
CHICAGO	$ 805
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NEW JERSEY	$ 770
VANCOUVER	$ 640
EUROPE	$ 720

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BORACAY	P 6,045
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2N SHENZHEN+2N SHANGHAI+2N BEIJING $396

BANGKOK
+PATTAYA $176
+BRUNEI $228
+HONGKONG $295
KUALA $288
SAIGON $295
AUSTRALIA $548
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ALASKA CRUISE $1609
EUROPEAN JEWELS $1649

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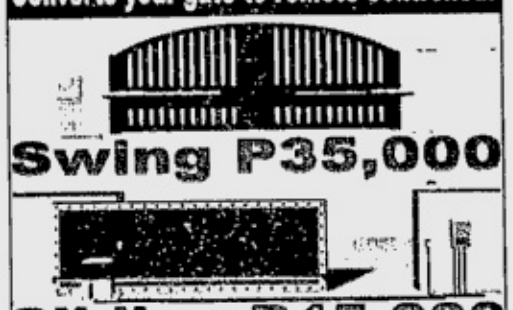

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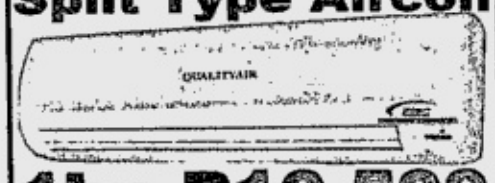

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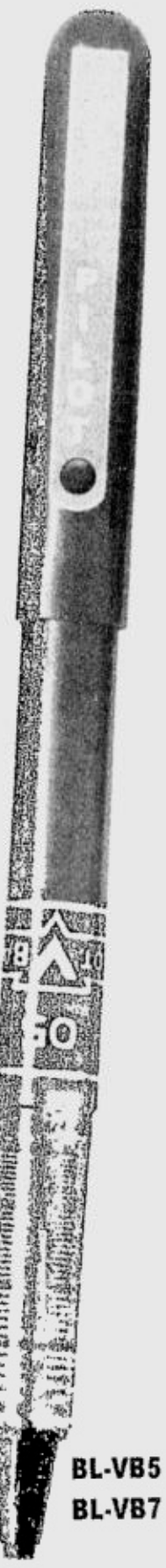

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DAY 1: AUGUST 18, 2005 - Thursday

Keynote Speech: *Tomorrow's Breed of Filipino Marketing and Brand Leaders - Starting Young and Starting Right*
Speaker: Mr. Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, President & COO, Alaska Milk Corporation

SESSION 1: RESEARCH
• *Making the Most out of your Brand*
Speaker: Mr. Shivkumar Moulee, Director, Marketing Solutions, Millward Brown Asia Pacific
• *Pinoy Exposed! Profiles of the Filipino consumer revealed through consumer research*
Speaker: Ms. Feddie Magpantay, Executive Director, AC Nielsen Philippines

SESSION 2: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
• *The Fresh Squeeze: Keep things juicy through Marketing Innovations that work*
Speaker: Mr. Benjie Yap, Marketing Manager - Home Care and Oral Care, Unilever Philippines
• *The Call of Innovation: Enhancing Technologies that Create New Consumer Lifestyles*
Speaker : Mr. Sidharth Singh, Head of Marketing Services for Customer and Market Operations, Nokia Philippines

SESSION 3: SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
• *Understanding the Supply Chain Management Principles that Can Make or Break Your Marketing Plan*
Speaker: Mr. Noel Bautista, Managing Director, IDS Logistics

DAY 2: AUGUST 19, 2005 - Friday

SESSION 3: SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (CONTINUATION)
• *Think Local, Act Local: Building Community Relationships as a Refreshing Approach to Effective Product Distribution*
Speaker to be confirmed

SESSION 4: PRODUCT POSITIONING
• *Standing Out: Establishing your Own Brand Identity in a Market of Mixed Images and Messages*
Speaker: Ms. Pauline Lao, Country Media Manager, Procter & Gamble Philippines
• *Mega-Brands: How Strong Product Positioning Cements a Brand's Standing in a Competitive Market*
Speaker : Mr. Andrew Santos, Vice President for Marketing & Sales, Nutritionals, Wyeth Philippines

SESSION 5: MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS
• *Brand Speak: Effective Strategic Planning That Gets Your Message Across*
Speaker: Mr. Nandy Villar, Vice President for Strategic Planning, McCann Erickson Philippines
• *Creative Inspiration: How to Help your Agency Deliver Creative Work that Sells*
Speaker: Mr. Jimmy Santiago, Managing Partner, TBWA-Santiago, Mangada, Puno
• *Where's the Big Idea: Recognizing Good Creative Strategies and Executions*
Speaker: Mr. Raul Castro, Executive Creative Director, LOWE Worldwide

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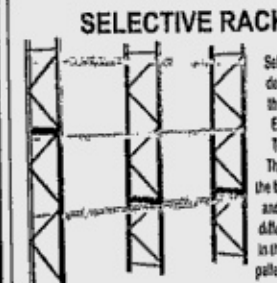

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Nuclear talks bog down on compensation

BEIJING—Negotiators tried to work out a joint statement on eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons program during a sixth day of talks on Sunday, but differences remained over demands by the communist state for what it would get in return.

Deputy leaders of delegations from six governments were meeting at a Chinese government guesthouse after China proposed a draft statement on Saturday.

Discussions on Sunday focused on "what corresponding measures other parties will take" in return for the North's agreement to dismantle its nuclear weapons program; South Korea's chief envoy said.

"It was a place where we could listen to each party's opinions on the draft," said Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon.

"We are trying to come up with an agreed statement which contains all the key points that have been discussed so far, but how long it will take remains to be seen," he said. "We are not very far in terms of distance, but how long it will take can't be predicted."

Song said more meetings were planned Monday.

The chief US envoy, Christopher Hill, has praised the Chinese proposal as a "good basis" for future negotiations but cautioned that differences remained with North Korea on a resolution of the 2 1/2-year-old nuclear standoff.

Hill, an assistant US secretary of state, has met five times with the North Koreans during the talks and it wasn't known if he met with them again on Sunday.

No end date for the talks has been set, and Hill said "it's going to take a while"—noting the process requires translating texts into the five languages of the nations at the talks—Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean and Russian.

"I want to caution everyone that it's a lot of work to look at a document and go line by line by line," Hill said Sunday afternoon at his Beijing hotel. "Things are moving, we have to see how it goes."

Russia is ready to sign the agreement, the country's deputy head delegate, Valery Yermolov, said Sunday, according to Russia's Itar-Tass news agency. *AP*

Charter body seeks 30-day extension

BAGHDAD, Iraq—The committee writing the new Iraqi Constitution decided Sunday to ask parliament for a 30-day extension to finish the draft, members said. The decision marks a setback to US efforts to maintain political momentum to combat the insurgency.

The formal request will be submitted to parliament on Monday, committee members said.

Under the original deadline, the National Assembly has until Aug. 15 to approve the Charter and submit it to a national referendum in mid-October under a formula strongly supported by the Americans. But major differences remain among the ethnic and religious groups represented on the committee.

Before the meeting on Sunday, the committee chair, Humam Hammoudi, said he would recommend a 30-day extension. After the meeting, one of the framers, Bahaa al-Araji, said the recommendation had been accepted.

Al-Araji said Kurdish delegates wanted a six-month delay but the Shiites and Sunni Arabs decided to ask for 30 more days.

The United States had mounted considerable pressure on the Iraqis to meet the Aug. 15 deadline. US officials believe political momentum is essential to luring away Sunni Arabs from the insurgency so American and other foreign troops can begin withdrawing next year.

The main points in dispute include such issues as federalism, dual nationality and the role of Islam.

The United States hopes that the new Iraqi Constitution will help calm the insurgency by encouraging the country's disaffected Sunni Arab community, which forms the core of the militants, to abandon the conflict and join the political process. *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Soil bacteria kill 6

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A disease caused by a soil bacteria has killed six people in southern Taiwan, the island's Center for Disease Control said Sunday. The victims died of melioidosis, a disease that is common in Southeast Asia and a few other tropical countries but not in Taiwan. Over the past two weeks, 16 people near the southern cities of Tainan and Kaohsiung have been hospitalized with the disease, suffering from high fevers and frequent vomiting. Six of the 16 died and another three are in critical condition, according to the center. Typhoon Haitang—which caused widespread flooding in mid-July—could have played a role in the illnesses by washing the bacteria out of the soil and polluting the water, CDC official Wu Ping-huei told reporters. *AP*

Reds free 7 officials

KATMANDU, Nepal—Communist rebels on Sunday freed seven government officials they had seized in eastern Nepal, and all were safe and in good health, an official said. The freed officials telephoned from the town of Birtamod, about 550 km east of the capital, Katmandu, to report they had been safely released, said Vijaya Poudel, the administrative chief of Illam District, where the officials were seized on Saturday. The officials were not harmed while being held by the rebels, Poudel said. *AP*

Trash-for-supplies swap

SPACE CENTER, Houston—Astronauts on Sunday exchanged supplies for trash that has accumulated on the international space station since shuttles were grounded after the 2003 Columbia tragedy. They also prepared for a second spacewalk set for Monday. Space shuttle Discovery, which docked at the orbiting outpost on Thursday, became the first shuttle to return to orbit last week. Among the mission's goals: Resupply the station and remove the mounds of trash that have accumulated in recent years. "It is kind of just like working in your closets and your garage," station flight director Mark Ferring said. "It's a lot of work." The astronauts are unloading 13.6 metric tons of cargo. They expect to return to Earth with 11.8 metric tons of trash and other items that are no longer needed on the station. *AP*

New sand bullet for riots

JERUSALEM—The Israeli military is to replace rubber bullets, which have caused dozens of fatalities, with a new sand bullet for riot control, the Army said Sunday. The new sand bullets, which can be fired from a regular rifle, have already been used in the West Bank. The military maintained that the rubber-coated metal bullets were not deadly, but Palestinian protesters were often killed when the rubber bullets were fired from a too close range. The sand bullet, said to be extremely painful but less dangerous, was developed by Israel's prisons authority. The rubber bullets will be phased out of use. *AP*

Rushmore faces washed

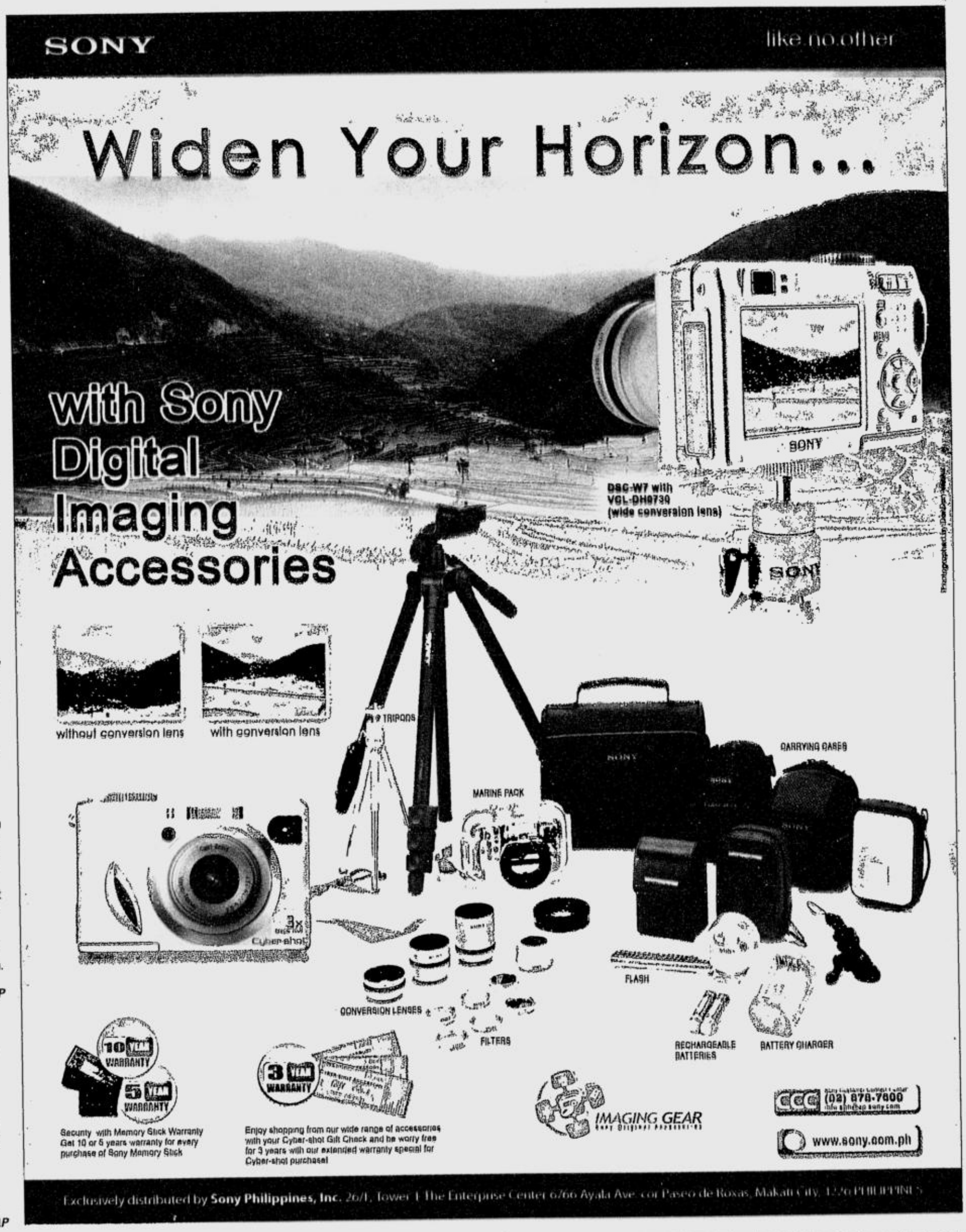
MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, South Dakota—You may not be able to tell the difference, but the presidents depicted on Mount Rushmore have had their faces washed for the first time since they were carved in stone more than 65 years ago. Workers removed decades of dirt, grime and invasive lichens, which had begun digging roots into the stone images of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt. The 3-week-long project was expected to end Thursday or Friday, according to Duane Bubac, Mount Rushmore facilities manager. *AP*

Aid for quadriplegic coughs

CLEVELAND—Just five weeks ago, Ronnie Moore could not do what most people take for granted—cough and clear his lungs. Now Moore, a quadriplegic, coughs by simply pressing a button on a control box on the tray of his wheelchair. "I feel air moving out of my throat," said Moore, who is in his 50s. Moore's cough was the first performed electronically by a quadriplegic, according to his doctor, Anthony DiMarco, a research scientist at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. Not being able to cough made Moore susceptible to respiratory infections like bronchitis and pneumonia—a leading cause of hospitalization and death in paraplegics and quadriplegics. He also was not able to clear his throat of food or secretions without help from an attendant at the nursing home where he lives. Moore, paralyzed from the neck down in a 1998 car accident, is the first patient to participate in a four-year, $1.5-million study paid for by the National Institutes of Health. DiMarco says three other quadriplegics are scheduled to receive the implants in September. *AP*

Last day of noodle stall

HONG KONG—Customers flocked to a well-known Hong Kong street vendor who's shutting down after 80 years in business, enjoying one last bowl of its famed beef and pig leg noodles and posting messages of support. Newspaper photos on Sunday showed people tucking into their dishes at tables on a downtown street near the Man Yuen noodle shop—an open-air style of dining known in Hong Kong as "Dai Pai Dong." Man Yuen is closing after 80 years because the restaurant's licensed operator passed away in May and authorities refused to transfer the license to his partner, the Apple Daily newspaper reported Sunday. *AP*



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Local motion

THE TWO-MONTH-OLD political crisis has driven home an almost-new, altogether vital lesson: The country's political map has been truly redrawn. We mean this quite literally. Last Friday, we ran a "political map of support/non-support" on the front page, showing the Philippines awash in a sea of green.

EDITORIAL

Green was the color we assigned to provincial governors who voiced support for President Macapagal-Arroyo after the crisis erupted; the green provinces include the likes of Eastern Samar, headed by Gov. Ben Evardone, who did not campaign for the President last May but is now the spokesperson for the pro-Arroyo governors.

The fact that vote-rich provinces like Pangasinan and Batangas are now counted in the President's column, despite having broken for opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. last year, may strike us at first as yet another manifestation of turncoat politics. But we would be wrong.

The fact is, many local executives (last Friday's story also carried a tally of mayors for or against the President) have rushed in to defend the center because they believe the future of the new periphery is itself at stake. Call it the modern paradox of local power.

The spectacle of local executives pledging support to a President under siege is nothing new, of course; in the last days of the dictatorship, many governors and mayors sided with Ferdinand Marcos. The difference is, they had no real power apart from access to Malacañang.

Today, there is a real movement of political power to the provinces, set in motion in the last decade by possibly the most consequential single piece of legislation since the fall of the dictatorship: the Local Government Code.

The grant of real powers to local governments did not only give them access to a guaranteed income or allow them an unprecedented measure of control over their own affairs. It also encouraged local executives to dream of real autonomy from the center; more precisely, it allowed them to re-imagine the center.

To be sure, local executives continue to realize that it would be better to have an ally in the Palace (and by extension, in the budget department). Politics, after all, is still addition. But if we focus all our attention on this transactional relationship between Malacañang and the local governments, we would miss out on the real story.

Local governments have become a real source of power in their own right

This is what we mean when we say the political map has truly been redrawn. The center holds in part because it is anchored on the periphery; that is what all those green-shaded political units in last Friday's map signify.

Many local executives do not only appreciate the political fact that the President literally speaks their language; they also recognize that Ms Arroyo is not a threat to **them**. In the black-and-white world of politics, she is on their side. The promise of greater devolution explicit in her campaign platform last year and implicit in her development plan is incentive enough to come to her defense. The idea that Metro Manila can once again mandate an interruption in the course of the country's political life only adds motive to incentive.

We wish to be clear: The "political map of support/non-support" is not a measure of public opinion. That would require another map altogether, showing, for instance, greater support for a federal system in Mindanao, greater support for the President in the Visayas, and greater support for impeachment in Metro Manila.

But the governors' map is telling in revealing ways. It shows us that the decision to invite local executives to the President's State of the Nation Address was not only meant to pack the Batasan with Charter change advocates but also an acknowledgment of their real power. And it signals to us that a hundred years after emerging local leaders like Sergio Osmeña from Cebu and Manuel Quezon from Tayabas contested Manila's dominance, there is a new vitality in the countryside.

Open poll returns to find out who cheated whom

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BELIEVE it or not, amid growing demands by the people for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign for cheating in the last elections, she has now turned the tables on her accusers by saying that it is she who might have been cheated, citing exit polls that indicated a bigger winning margin for her over FPJ.

There is one quick way to find out: open the election returns. That will end, definitely and conclusively, the questions about the legitimacy of her presidency, a problem that has plunged the nation into the present crisis.

This is very easy to do. The Presidential Electoral Tribunal will be opening the election returns for vice president because of the poll protest of opposition candidate Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro. Written on the same documents are the votes for the presidential candidates; it will take no more than a few seconds to tally their votes, too. As PET determines who won in the VP race, it will also know who won in the presidential race between GMA and FPJ.

If it is GMA, then all the rallies and attacks against her will cease and she can finish her term peacefully until 2010. If it is FPJ, then whoever is the rightful vice president will have to take over. Either way, no more impeachment, no more people power, no more juntas, no more Truth Commission, no more pressures from ambitious politicians, no more diversionary tactics, no more lies and evasive answers, no more need to charm the press, no more stress-filled days and sleepless nights.

GMA can then retire in peace with Mike and their children and enjoy the company of her grandchildren. Little children grow very quickly, and if you are too busy, you will soon find out that they have grown into, ugh, adults and you have missed the best times of their growing-up. If I were GMA, I would choose my family over Malacañang. The presidency is a thankless job. Try as you might, you can't please everybody. As far as I'm concerned, they can have it.

The other choice is pure and simple torture. There won't be a moment's peace for her. The rallies will continue and even get bigger. Her popularity rating will continue to plunge until even those who voted for her will demand that she step down. The mental anguish will be so great that she could have a nervous breakdown. Even her allies will get tired and quit. Those who are hanging on because of the pay will decide that it is not worth it and leave. Others will hang on for selfish motives. Eventually the military and police will get tired, too, trying to protect her and decide she is not worth protecting, and they will side with the people. It is doubtful if she would be able to finish her term. It took three years from the assassination of Ninoy Aquino until Marcos was chased out of Malacañang. Erap lasted only six months. Time is running out on GMA.

The advice of the Americans to Marcos to "cut and cut cleanly" also applies to GMA. There is no loss of honor in knowing when you are licked and in deciding to quit.

There is a clamor that if GMA is to be replaced, it should be done the "constitutional" way. Re-counting the votes to determine who really won is the most constitutional way.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, the constitutional expert who was one of those who drafted the present Constitution, agrees that the PET can reopen the election returns for the presidential candidates. Although the Supreme Court has denied the petition of Susan Roces to continue the poll protest of her dead husband, FPJ, "for the purpose of finding the truth," Father Bernas said that "under the present circumstances, where there is a clamor for an impartial body to look into the Gloriagate scandal, the Supreme Court may yet be persuaded to reopen the FPJ protest, as an act of judicial statesmanship, if only to find out whether indeed Gloria garnered more votes than FPJ, or whether the Vice President should be president instead. That question, after all, is what is tearing the nation apart."

And the Supreme Court itself, in deciding election protests where one of the parties died, ruled that an election protest "is imbued with public interest and is not extinguished when one of the parties dies."

In De Castro vs. Comelec, decided in 1997, the Court said: "The death of the protestant, as in this case, neither constitutes a ground for the dismissal of the contest nor ousts the trial court of its jurisdiction to decide the election contest... Determination of what candidate has in fact been elected is a matter clothed with public interest, wherefore, public policy demands that an election contest, duly commenced, be not abated by the death of the contestant."

In Vda. De Mesa vs. Mencias, the tribunal ruled:

"x x x It is axiomatic that an election contest, involving as it does not only the adjudication and settlement of the private interests of the rival candidates but also the paramount need of dispelling once and for all the uncertainty that beclouds the real choice of the electorate with respect to who shall discharge the prerogatives of the offices within their gift, is a proceeding imbued with public interest which raises it into a plane over and above ordinary civil actions. For this reason, broad perspectives of public policy impose upon courts the imperative duty to ascertain, by all means within their command, who is the real candidate elected, in as expeditious a manner as possible, without being fettered by technicalities and procedural barriers to the end that the will of the people may not be frustrated."

Isn't the present grave national crisis, which is ripping the nation apart, worth the PET's "judicial statesmanship," to allow for the tallying of the returns for GMA and FPJ at the same time that it tallies the returns for Noli and Loren?

I refuse

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OVER THE PAST couple of weeks, I've heard a lament from several groups of people, representative of the eight out of 10 Filipinos who want GMA out of Malacañang. The tack of embarrassing the President sufficiently to make her resign, they say, hasn't worked. You cannot appeal to the conscience of someone who has no conscience. You cannot shame someone who is shameless. You cannot beg someone, who can hear only the roar of her driving ambition, to hear the cry of a wounded country.

The usurper in Malacañang, they say, isn't going to leave it without being physically forced to. She will drag the country down in flames before she packs up her bags hurriedly and flies to her version of Paoay or Hawaii. Unfortunately, the groups lament even more, people do not seem to want to take to the streets anymore to mount another People Power. Where does that leave us?

Well, first off, I don't know that Filipinos are loath to mount another People Power anymore. From where I stand, I see that Filipinos are loath only to produce another GMA with People Power. Supremely ironically, in a country that has more ironies than karaokes, GMA's greatest weakness is also her greatest strength. People balk at taking to the streets to remove her for fear of producing someone like her. One is tempted to add, "or worse than her," but that concept strains the imagination.

That doesn't mean Filipinos no longer want an Edsa, it only means Filipinos no longer want the same Edsa. They want a different Edsa, one that makes things better. I am not discounting the possibility of people taking to the streets again in the next few months to oust a tyranny. Aug. 21 and Sept. 21 are flash point dates, the first recalling the murder of Ninoy Aquino in 1983 and the bombing of Plaza Miranda in 1971, the second marking the anniversary of martial law in 1972. All are testaments to the ruthlessness of those who crave power so badly they will cling to it at all costs.

Quite apart from that, there is GMA herself whose more frequent public appearances are bound to do what the exhortations of her enemies have so far failed to—stoke the public to uncontrollable fury. She asserts more things like she was the victim rather than the beneficiary of cheating, and she will single-handedly spark People Power—against her. If I recall right, during the twilight days of martial law, customers in pubs improved their aim in darts by putting a picture of Marcos in the center of the dartboards.

But quite apart from this, we do not entirely lack for other weapons to force the squatter in Malacañang to go. There is always civil disobedience, and I for one am hereby proclaiming I am embarking on it. My principle is simple and basic: An illegitimate president refuses to give up the powers of the President of the Philippines, I refuse to observe my duties as a citizen of the Philippines.

My reason for this is just as simple and basic. GMA is not the President of this country because she cheated in the elections. It does not matter whether she "actually won" or not, the fact of cheating voids any claim to the presidency. You catch a student cheating in the final exams, you do not ask whether he could have passed anyway even without cheating, you expel him. GMA herself has admitted to being the voice on the tape. That is the one thing she may not escape. Talking to Garcillano is cheating. Plotting to pad votes is cheating. Prescribing your own (non-)punishment for cheating is cheating. People who cheat do not go to Malacañang, they go to Muntinlupa.

She and her Cabinet may go on to talk about reforming the country, she and Tabako may go on to talk about Charter change, she and her allies (including those in media) may go on to talk about her "actually winning," Hello Garci aside, but none of it will change the incontrovertible fact that she lied, cheated and stole, and is therefore not the President of this country. To paraphrase Clinton's famous slogan against Bush the Elder: It's **not** the economy, stupid. It's you.

In the past, I've always declared that I might not like the president we had, but I was obliged to serve him by the fact that he was voted by the people. I say now that I do not like the person we have in Malacañang and I am moreover not obliged to serve her by the fact that she was not voted by the people. I refuse to be conscripted into military service, or allow my kids to be so, on the strength of her declarations of war. I refuse to owe allegiance to her or her Cabinet and render public service if they call upon me to do so.

Most of all, I refuse to pay my taxes.

Of course, my taxes are automatically deducted from me, a situation I protest most vigorously at this time. I'm being squeezed at both ends, by high prices below and more taxes above. The latter I was apprised of only recently by INQUIRER Accounting. It is infuriating having hard-earned money seized from you particularly with the thought of Mike Arroyo flying around in gleeful exile. But if I get additional income, I will refuse to declare it, though heaven knows sidelines are harder to find than truth these days: You know honest work throw it my way. If I inherit a fortune from a long-lost uncle in China, I will refuse to divulge it. I will refuse to have even my patience taxed any longer.

I do not mind being arrested for this, if only to demonstrate one thing. Which is the difference between how this government treats citizens who openly defy this country's tax laws for the most moral reasons, and presidential candidates who grossly violate this country's electoral laws for the most venal ones.

A government that persists in ruling without the mandate of heaven or earth, or both, is a tyranny. I have only one thing to say to it:

I refuse

Let's get it over with

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE JOKE has been going around that Speaker Jose de Venecia landed in St. Luke's Hospital with bleeding hands from too much vigorous clapping during the last Sona of President Macapagal-Arroyo. He and former President Fidel Ramos are the principal cheer leaders in Ms Arroyo's campaign for constitutional revision. And they want it done through Congress acting as a constituent assembly.

If they really want to, they can start it today. The constituent assembly enthusiasts will find the 1987 Constitution helpful for getting started. But completing the work will be something else.

Under the 1935 Constitution, before Congress could act as a constituent assembly, the two houses had to agree first to meet in joint session. The text of the 1935 Constitution read thus: "The Congress in joint session assembled, by a vote of three-fourths of all the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives voting separately may propose amendments to this Constitution . . ." Clearly, under the 1935 Constitution, before Congress could consider constitutional amendments, the two houses had to approve first a resolution convening Congress to a joint session for the purpose.

The language of the 1987 Constitution is different. It simply says: "Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: (1) the Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members . . ." There is nothing there about having to come together in joint session. My reading of the present text is that, even without a resolution converting Congress into a constituent assembly, Congress, as is, can already consider amendments to the Constitution. The present text, without more, already makes Congress a constituent assembly.

From this it follows that, if any member of the House or of the Senate wishes to propose changes in the Constitution, all he or she has to do is formulate them, submit them to the House where he or she belongs, and, if after being reported out for debate they are approved by a vote of three-fourths of all the members, it is next passed on to the other house for action. If both houses approve the same changes, then they are ripe for ratification in a plebiscite.

> I therefore urge the advocates of constitutional change to let the world know what form of parliamentarism and federalism they want

The preliminary step of convening a constituent assembly is no longer necessary under the present dispensation (although it may still be used if both houses agree to a joint session). The present text simply says that Congress, a bicameral body, may propose amendments by a vote of three-fourths of all its members. The two houses can already do this as they are and where they are. The two houses as they are and where they are already have constituent powers given to them by the Constitution.

If Speaker De Venecia or any other member of the House is passionately set on setting in motion the process of amending or revising the present Constitution, let him or her formulate the changes desired and submit them for action by the House of Representatives. This way, what President Arroyo calls "the great debate" can begin in earnest and not just in press releases.

I therefore urge the advocates of constitutional change to let the world know what form of parliamentarism and federalism they want. They have the right to do so and no one should begrudge them that right. Which does not mean that they will get what they want.

If they will do this, we will finally see if, indeed, they can get the support of three-fourths of all the members of the House. That should mean something like 177 votes in favor. If they do not get that support from the House, we can breathe a sigh of relief, and Congress can go on to more urgent business. And if they do get the needed votes, we will soon enough know how solid the Senate opposition really is. To kill any proposed amendment, all that is needed is for seven senators to vote against it. Present indications seem to be that unless there is a miraculous conversion in the thinking of senators, the lower House will not have its way.

We might recall that it was also during the month of August in 1997 that there was much agitation for constitutional revision. Word going around then was that it was being orchestrated by incumbent President Fidel Ramos. The hot objective then was the removal of the term limits on national elective officials. Now the flavors of the month are parliamentarism and federalism. We should soon enough see if these will sell.

Peoples' lawyers

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

AS a young and new lawyer in 1958, Fred Gapuz of Cagayan de Oro City was thrust into the whirlpool of the protest movement against the Parity Rights and the presence of US Military Bases in the country. A fresh graduate of the University of Santo Tomas then, he linked arms with noted nationalists, among them Claro M. Recto.

"It was almost half a century ago," he noted with a tinge of nostalgia. Yet, at 71, Gapuz is still fired up by the same "idealism" he embraced decades ago. Last July 23 in Davao City, he was elected chair of the newly organized Union of Peoples' Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLM), which was formed by an assembly of almost a hundred lawyers, paralegals and law students from the different regions of the island.

Why is he still in the thick of "human rights" lawyering after all these years? "It's my conviction; it's a continuation of what I started since nothing substantial has changed even up to now," he said. A veteran of the parliament of the streets, Gapuz, in 1984, was a founding member of the Concerned Lawyers' Union of Mindanao for Nationalism (Column).

UPLM members "commit ourselves to the cause and principles of peoples' lawyering," the group declared in its founding statement, which was read by Gapuz during a press conference last week.

"We make this commitment to the poor and dispossessed (of) Mindanao. They not only have the least in law but [they also] are perpetual victims of the law itself in our unjustly stratified social system where the interests of the privileged few dominate law and society. Thus, in essence, the peoples' lawyer is not only a legal advocate or defender but also an agent of change in society, [with a mission] to uplift the poor and the powerless. As peoples' lawyers, we believe that our interests and our issues cannot be dichotomized from the overall conditions of our people and the nation. Our (profession) carries with it the responsibility to serve and pursue the ends of justice," the UPLM statement also declared.

As in the other parts of the country, the reign of martial law galvanized the ranks of lawyers in Mindanao into fighting for freedom and justice. However, in the dictatorship's early years, only a handful of lawyers in the island joined the clamor for the humane treatment of political prisoners, respect for their democratic rights, their release from prison and the abolition of the then dreaded Presidential Commitment Order (which authorized warrantless arrests and indefinite detention). But this trend was reversed when the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno organized the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) in several areas of Mindanao, where more than half of the entire AFP was deployed at that time.

In 1983, Mindanao lawyers went into fasting in solidarity with political prisoners, under the auspices of the Church-backed Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference.

The growing militarization of the island (as what is happening now), the increasing incidence of "hamletting," "salvaging," massacres, bombings, forced evacuation and other forms of human rights violations soon filled the calendars of human rights lawyers. However, while FLAG had established its presence in Mindanao, it did not have chapters in most of the island. On the other hand, the IBP in Mindanao had few chapters active in human rights lawyering. This "need of the times" led to the formation of Column in 1994. The new organization brought together members of FLAG and the Protestant Lawyers League of the Philippines (PLLP), lawyers assigned with the human rights committee of the IBP and many "independent" lawyers.

Soon thereafter, Column lawyers were in the front lines, leading mass actions and *welgang bayan*. Some of its members also headed Mindanao-wide mass organizations. In 1985, three of its members—Laurente Ilagan (Bayan Mindanao chair), Marcos Risonar (Column secretary general) and Antonio Arellano (Column chair)—were arrested and jailed by virtue of the Preventive Detention Action, a tool of repression during martial law. They were eventually called the "Davao Three." Their case is now immortalized in legal parlance as the "Ilagan Doctrine" and is recorded in 139 SCRA 349.

After Marcos was ousted in 1986, many Column members joined the government service as judges and prosecutors; others forayed into politics. Among them were Arellano, now a regional state prosecutor in the Visayas, and Silvestre Bello III, who became justice secretary and government peace negotiator.

Yet, many others continue with their "human rights" lawyering, Gapuz said. The same situation that led to the establishment of Column—the increasing number of human rights violations in Mindanao, especially in the Moro areas—has compelled the creation of UPLM, he added.

One difference, he said, is that "when we were in Column, we were concerned primarily with legal defense; but right now, we must not only legally defend (human rights victims), we must also help our people understand the structure that may have given rise to the situation because, whether we like it or not, do we really have a democracy? No, what we have is an autocracy, an elite democracy."

Another difference may be its composition. The UPLM has Shariah lawyers, law students and legal workers (paralegals, court employees, etc.) as members. Its governing council has permanent representatives from the Moro and Lumad groups.

"By organizing and broadening the Union of Peoples' Lawyers in Mindanao, we hope to add to the growing number of lawyers who are opting for the less traveled road of public interest lawyering," the UPLM founding statement said.

* * *

Comments to kar_laws@yahoo.com

First order of business

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PRESIDENT'S decision to submit to her party's desire for Charter change ignores one central question: Should the President preside over the undertaking and related efforts? Unless and until the issue on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's continued fitness for office is resolved, constitutional changes are inevitably, and dangerously, tied to her political fate. Since public opinion has overwhelmingly spoken in favor of the impeachment process, then let that issue be resolved through the impeachment process, before Congress turns itself into a constituent assembly.

To do otherwise—to insist on an accelerated process in which Congress defines the changes to be made, without consulting the public—is to prevent a national consensus from emerging. Without a national consensus, Congress faces a danger. That danger is not in the rejection of Charter changes in a referendum. (After all, one thing is certain: the amendments that Congress will come up with will have to be ratified in a plebiscite, in which public participation has been historically low, and in which the machinery of the ruling party has a tremendous advantage in getting out a "yes" vote.) The danger lies in a widespread public disappointment and suspicion that might greet whatever constitutional order emerges.

However, if the question of the President's fitness for office is resolved; if an advisory commission is put together and consults all sectors and regions; and if, by virtue of the consultations, a reasonable draft of potentially desirable amendments is submitted to Congress, then constitutional reform through a constituent assembly would not only be acceptable, but even desirable.

This scenario, I suppose, is what appeals to Prof. Jose Abueva, who has recently been criticized for going along with the President's proposals. Abueva has been a consistent and eloquent proponent of federalism, although the kind he proposes seems rather different from the kind members of Congress want. Nevertheless, Abueva's heading the consultative commission provides Congress a chance to show it is willing to hear the voice of the people.

In the meantime, Congress can focus on the budget, even as the House wrestles with the impeachment complaint in its justice committee. It is hoped that the matter would be resolved in a manner that inspires confidence—without the House deliberations or a Senate trial triggering a furious backlash from the public (in which case we'd be headed toward a revolutionary government, anyway). All the while, a constitutional consultative commission would have time for study, reflection and consultation. It should not be that only the provinces are heard (and not just the wealthy and well-positioned provinces favoring a federal setup). Other sectors must also be heard. As it stands, congressionally centered proposals do not take into consideration the views of the marginalized sectors, which should have a chance to participate in the debate.

What separates the proponents of Charter change within the government (representatives, governors and mayors) from those outside government is actually an idea often used by former President Ramos: the idea of "leveling the playing field." As proposed by the Speaker and accepted by the President, and loudly applauded by the Lakas-CMD, Charter change seems to be more of a means to establish a government by Lakas, of Lakas and for Lakas, than a way to broaden public participation and ensure greater opportunities for all, and not just a few. I do not believe there is already a public consensus on the particulars: for example, what kind of federalism should be instituted; is unicameralism the only way to go; or will a parliamentary government provide for proportional representation, or a winner-take-all system similar to the absolutely safe, and even for sale, boroughs of England during much of the 18th and 19th centuries?

So it all begins and ends, whether we like it or not, with the President. For those of us who feel she should resign, she has replied: "Impeach me." Most people seem inclined to call her bluff. So let her be impeached. And let it be done in a manner that will lead the public, on either side of the political divide, to accept willingly the results of the impeachment process. Rigoberto Tiglao recently challenged Rep. Francis Escudero to categorically state whether or not the opposition would abide by the result of the impeachment process. I'd argue that the decision lies not with either the administration or the opposition, but rather, with the public. The majority has as much responsibility as the opposition to ensure that the process ultimately ends up with a verdict acceptable to the public. The public knows fair play when it sees it. The public will know if the impeachment process has resulted, anywhere down the line, in something that makes sense or not.

Then, and only then, with the question of the President's fitness resolved, and the reputation of Congress improved because of its handling of the impeachment process, should we turn to the question of fixing the constitutional defects the President, former President Ramos and Speaker De Venecia claim are to blame for the country's woes.

* * *

On Aug. 4, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, UP-ISP will be holding at the UP College of Law an iBlog Mini Summit titled: "Blogging Gloriagate." This is part of iBlog's discussion series, which intends to document the impact of blogging in Philippine society. Talks will be on: "Introducing Blogging Gloriagate" (Atty. JJ Disini)—10-10:30; "Blogging Gloriagate: The PCIJ Experience"—10:30-11; "Blogging Gloriagate: A Personal Journey" (Manuel L. Quezon III). It's free. Join us.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

The Ramos factor

COMMENTARY

Luis V. Teodoro

DESPITE her basement-level approval and trust ratings—and calls for her resignation from the opposition, business groups, academe, erstwhile members of her Cabinet, former political allies, Corazon Aquino and a broad range of militant, religious, people's and non-governmental organizations—President Macapagal-Arroyo has so far defied predictions that she would be forced out of office by the hemorrhage of her support that began last July 7.

The Catholic bishops' decision not to ask her to resign came later. What stopped the bleeding was former President Fidel Ramos' declaration of support, on condition that she preside over Charter change and the shift to the parliamentary system.

The Ramos "solution" to Ms Arroyo's predicament put him on collision course with former President Aquino and the Franklin Drilon faction of the Liberal Party. But not surprisingly, Ramos' act was followed by the jumping of the remaining Cabinet members, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat party to Ms Arroyo's defense. The threat of military intervention also waned as the Armed Forces chief of staff declared the AFP's "neutrality."

Like Ramos, De Venecia is focused on changing the present presidential system to a parliamentary one, as all third-termers in both houses of Congress are. Barred from seeking fourth terms under the present system, these third-termers can see to it that they can run for parliament in 2006.

But the far juicier prospect is that a parliament under Lakas-CMD's control can hand over to failed presidential aspirant De Venecia the post of prime minister. Ramos is himself not very popular among Filipinos. But he would share in the spoils once a parliament is in place, perhaps, as a president with powers equal to those of the prime minister, or in some other equally pivotal capacity.

While Ramos seemed to speak only for himself in supporting Ms Arroyo, he spoke with a political and military network behind him. In the process, he also assured the United States—never a disinterested observer of Philippine politics—that the nationalist provisions in the present Constitution, which foreign investors detest, will soon be things of the past. Ramos' proposal for Ms Arroyo to stay on until 2006 also appealed to the middle class' concern for order, and its cynicism over what another political upheaval could accomplish.

As a result of Ramos' intervention and, later, of the Catholic bishops' support, Ms Arroyo got a chance to remain in office long enough to deliver her fifth State of the Nation Address last July 25. Despite her vast unpopularity, her putrid record of governance and the general perception that she cheated in the May 2004 elections, Ms Arroyo may not be forced out of office in the immediate future.

But she will eventually have to go, four years before her putative six-year term ends. Under Ramos' proposal, constitutional amendments would be completed by the end of this year, followed by their ratification in January and by parliamentary elections in May 2006. The proposal is silent on whether Ms Arroyo can run for member of parliament in those elections. If the new Constitution that Ramos wants would allow it, and she did run in an election with a modicum of integrity, she would risk being trounced so severely it would validate the widespread view that she "won" in 2004 only by cheating.

Between now and that moment when she makes her supposedly dignified exit, Ms Arroyo will have only Ramos, De Venecia, the Lakas-CMD and the Ramos wing of the military to lean on. She has lost the support of those civil society leaders she put in her Cabinet and of those NGOs that made billions out of her generosity. She has also lost the confidence and approval of much of the business community, the middle class and academe.

The rank-and-file nuns and priests and their leaders in the religious orders who do not share the Catholic bishops' moral ambiguity demand her resignation, while millions of Filipinos prefer that someone else run the country. Given these conditions, Ms Arroyo is likely to end up a painted Malacañang figurehead while Ramos and company rule. And they will make sure that she remains as vulnerable for the next 10 months as she is currently.

With Ms Arroyo's hands thus tied, the truly honorable and genuinely dignified way out for her is to resign now. This is to assume that Ms Arroyo will choose dignity over expediency, and that she will reject being diminished personally and politically. Assuming Ms Arroyo is not removed from office via People Power, and Ramos has his way, she will probably stay on to implement the Ramos agenda no matter what the conditions.

That agenda, without the clichés and the pretty words, is for Ramos, De Venecia and their cohorts to get back to or stay in power via the shift to a parliamentary system. They claim that a parliament will solve the problems of the political and electoral system, including its non-representative character, corruption and lack of integrity. But unless the Filipino millions are empowered, elite dominance, misgovernment and corruption will continue in a parliamentary system as these have prevailed in the presidential one. A parliamentary system will thus make reforms even more difficult, if not impossible.

The prospect for the disempowered is continuing exclusion even as the Ramos "solution" to the present crisis will also intensify intra-elite contention. The business-landlord-Catholic Church faction of the elite will not look kindly at a second Ramos presidency, for example, and neither will the other military factions. Indeed, unless Ms Arroyo resigns now and denies them the pleasure of having her as their flunky, only Ramos and company and their partners will end up benefiting from a crisis that has divided and debased the country, exposed the bankruptcy of its political and electoral system, and the rot at the heart of Philippine "democracy."

Luis V. Teodoro is a professor of journalism at the University of the Philippines.

THEY SAID

Crippling crisis

"Political stability is an essential requisite for a strong business environment. We regret that a political crisis has recently developed (here) which severely impacts on the ability of the current administration to govern effectively."

—The American Chamber of Commerce, urging Filipinos to resolve the crisis at the earliest possible time, within the rule of law and the Philippine Constitution

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Act as a nation in accordance with God's wisdom

SINCE we proudly claim that the majority of our people are Christians, then we ought to know how to pray so that God will grant what we ask for.

Let us pray:

1. That our political leaders and their respective followers forget all the proposals and options that have been suggested to solve our current political problems.

2. That they keep still and quiet, until their minds and hearts can hear and listen to God's enlightenment and guidance.

3. That our nation then act in accordance with the enlightenment and guidance of God's wisdom.

We can be sure that God will tell us what to do as a nation, because it is written in the Bible:

"Everyone who comes to me and listens to my words and acts on them is like the man who when he built his house, dug and dug deep and laid the foundations on rock; when the river was in flood it bore down on that house but could not shake it, it was so well built. But the one who listens and does nothing is like the man who built his house on soil, with no foundations: as soon as the river bore down on it, it collapsed; and what a ruin that house became." (Lk. 6:47-49)

Thus, we should act as a nation in accordance with God's wisdom, otherwise our nation will be ruined.

God bless our nation.

—ISIDORO A. PANLASIGUI JR.,
6 Big Horseshoe Drive,
Horseshoe Village, Quezon City

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Impeachment, so be it

NOTHING, it seems, can budge Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into stepping down from Malacañang—not the mounting clamor for her immediate resignation; not the serious allegations of electoral fraud, violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust and other misdemeanors being hurled against her; not the dwindling public and business confidence in her leadership; not even the imminent collapse of the country's economy and further suffering of the people, particularly the poor.

GMA would rather have herself impeached than step down. Let it be. That's her right as anyone else's—to claim innocence unless proven otherwise. Besides, sealing the President's fate by some other constitutional, nonviolent means is undoubtedly far better than allowing the will and might of some "mobs" to prevail.

But let's begin with the impeachment process soon and let it move fast. Let it bring out the truth and mete out the toughest punishment to the guilty. And while at this, our people should stay calm, albeit remaining vigilant over the possibility of the proceedings being turned into a mere "political circus" by an impeachment court made up of politicians, generally perceived to have mastered the art of posturing or self-aggrandizement at the expense of truth and justice.

Meanwhile, our so-called leaders (and people) have to get their act together and finally help this nation find its way to a better tomorrow. Until then, we can never restore decency and pride in ourselves as a people.

—MANUEL A. COLLAO,
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Concepcion Grande, Naga City

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Moral guidance, not political options

THIS is in reference to the news report subtitled, "CBCP spells out formula to solve political crisis" written by Christian Esguerra. (PDI, 7/19/05) I wish to clarify that I did not use the word "formula." Together with other Church beat reporters, I did discuss the pros and cons of the non-violent options recognized by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines as not against the Gospel.

I reiterate that the CBCP's role is not to point out a specific political option or package of options. Precisely, the spirit of the recent pastoral statement is not for the Church hierarchy to dictate on political matters but for the lay people to take the lead in the transformation of society. The bishops are there to offer pastoral guidance based on moral principles.

—MSGR. HERNANDO M. CORONEL,
secretary general,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines,
470 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila

'Leaders' taking us all for a ride

I SPENT 23 years working abroad, all the while dreaming of coming home to and settling down in my beloved country, after my children shall have finished their studies.

Now I am home, but with the things going on in the Philippines, sometimes I regret coming home. Nothing has changed. The same people who were in government when I left are still there—still squabbling to stay in power or to regain it. Politics is still the main staple of the Filipinos. Popularity is still the main reason one gets elected into public office. Not performance, not education, not competence.

I thought Edsa I would bring change to our country for the better. But what a disappointment it turned out to be. Edsa II was no better. The same people are still up there. They do not fade away like old soldiers do. What is wrong with us? When will we open our eyes to see the truth that we are all being taken for a ride by our so called "leaders"? When will we realize that the people in government are our servants and not our bosses? And lastly, when will we realize that politics does not put food on our tables?

—JESUS VILLAMOR III,
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Cavite gov charged for 'ghost' purchase

IMUS, Cavite—Cavite Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla on Friday filed graft and corruption charges against Gov. Erineo 'Ayong' Maliksi before the Ombudsman for the alleged 'ghost purchase' of P7.5-million worth of rice last year.

Remulla said neither Maliksi nor businesswoman Carmencita Guinto, owner of the rice supplier Capitol City Marketing, failed to show any delivery and acknowledgment receipts of the purchase.

He said Maliksi could have pocketed P5 million from the supposed anomalous contract, which the governor purportedly used during his swearing in to the Liberal Party in November.

Maliksi shrugged off Remulla's accusations, saying his former political ally just wanted to discredit him.

"This is all politics. [Remulla] has been trying to destroy my reputation by filing cases left and right, some of which were already dismissed by the courts. But I am not bothered because my conscience is clean," he told the INQUIRER.

In his affidavit, Remulla said that during a meeting of the provincial council in November 2004, budget officer Leonor Villalobos disclosed that Maliksi had ordered the purchase of rice using the provincial government's calamity funds last Oct. 5, 2004.

"[Villalobos] further informed me that such purchase were made on the sole certification of [Maliksi] that the rice purchased were urgently needed by the 'indigent families' of the province," Remulla stated.

The purchase, he added, was made without public bidding.

Documents showed that ten days after the purchase order was made, Maliksi and provincial treasurer Salome Landas issued eight checks amounting to P7.5 million for Guinto as payment for the purchase.

Remulla said that aside from failing to undergo a required public bidding, the whole agreement should be deemed unlawful as the provincial council did not declare Cavite under a state of calamity.

He explained that unless the national government approves it, it is only the provincial council which has the sole power to declare the province under a state of calamity.

Only then could the governor use the calamity funds of the province, he said.

"But during that period, Cavite did not suffer from any calamity. So if there's no calamity, then why did he use the calamity funds?" Remulla told the INQUIRER.

Worse, he said, the rice was delivered to its supposed beneficiaries sometime in December.

"If the purchase was really urgent, then why distribute it two months after it was bought? The law said it should have been distributed 15 days after the purchase," he argued.

Maliksi said it was President Macapagal-Arroyo who declared a state of calamity after a typhoon hit some parts of Luzon.

"It was the President who included Cavite under a state of calamity," he said.

The governor, however, admitted that the rice rations were distributed to indigent families as a Christmas gift last December.

Remulla also accused Maliksi of violating Executive Order No. 51, which required all government agencies to purchase their rice requirements from the National Food Authority.

On Feb. 14, the Commission on Audit supported Remulla's observations. In an audit observation memorandum, state auditor Cynthia Vergara noted that their review of disbursement vouchers revealed that "the purchases of rice were made without public bidding."

"The purchase of rice ... [was] awarded to [suppliers] instead of the NFA as required by EO 51 ... only upon the issuance of an NFA waiver can these government entities source rice elsewhere," the COA report said.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Abu Sayyaf blamed for bombings

KORONADAL CITY—Police have blamed the Abu Sayyaf group for the bombings here and in Cotabato City on Saturday.

The first blast occurred around 11 a.m. inside the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) compound in Cotabato City. Four hours later, another bomb exploded near the entrance of this city's public market.

No one was killed but four persons were injured in the bomb attacks.

Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, police chief for Central Mindanao, said the Abu Sayyaf staged the attacks to ease the military pressure on its members in Maguindanao.

Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, told the INQUIRER that government soldiers have cordoned off the area where Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani and his followers were hiding.

The military has been pursuing Janjalani's group in the past weeks. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has even ordered the temporary evacuation of its forces to give way to the military operations.

Dema-ala also said Saturday's bomb attacks were perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf.

"It's already a pattern. Every time we have an offensive operation against them, there are explosions," Dema-ala said.

"The Abu Sayyaf perpetrated the attack as part of its plan to divert military attention. We have two suspects and it's a matter of days before we could catch up with them," Mangila said.

The bomb that exploded near the main gate of Koronadal public market was not that powerful. *Aquiles Zonio with a report from Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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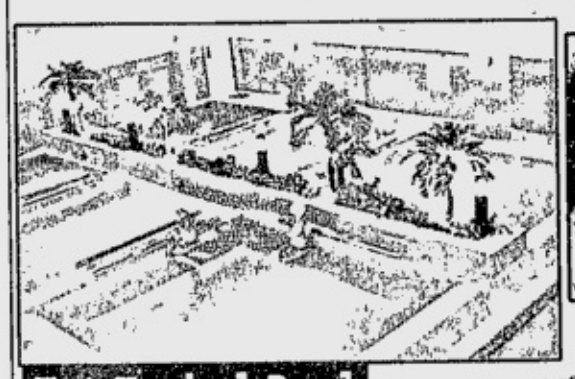

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Illegal logging case vs UPLB head endorsed

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The Office of the Environment Ombudsman has recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against University of the Philippines at Los Baños Chancellor Dr. Wilfredo David for the alleged illegal cutting of two hardwood trees inside the campus last year.

In a three-page resolution dated July 4, Virgilio Carreon Jr., investigator of the Environment Ombudsman, endorsed the filing of charges David based on the complaint of environment lawyer Maria Paz Luna.

Luna is the counsel of the Kapatirang Delta Alpha Omega, a group of UPLB alumni opposing the alleged illegal cutting of trees inside the university.

Environment Ombudsman Wilbert Candelaria subsequently approved the resolution on July 7.

David denied the allegations in his counter-affidavit. He said the trees were termite-infested and that the cutting of trees was done in the interest of public safety.

The Ombudsman's decision came as David started his bid for a third term as UPLB chancellor.

The case stemmed from David's alleged approval of the felling of two Bitaog trees located along the Agronomy Orchard Road in February 2003 without permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Documents showed that on Jan. 27, 2004, David approved the proposal of contractors Eddie Florentino, a barangay councilor in Los Baños, and Benjamin Avecilla.

The approval was made after the recommendation of Casiano Abrigo Jr., vice chancellor for planning and development, and Edgardo Paras, superintendent of the Physical Plant Maintenance and Services Office of UPLB.

The contract stipulated that 60 percent of the lumber harvested from the trees would go to the contractors while the remaining proceeds would go to the university.

According to Avecilla, per board foot of the logs was worth P60, making the 3,500 board feet worth P210,000. Luna said this agreement was disadvantageous to the government.

She added that the contract was illegal since it did not pass through the Bids and Awards Committee of the UPLB.

Another document showed that six jeeploads of Bitaog lumber were taken out of the campus on Feb. 24, 2004. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Sperm whale rescued in Bohol

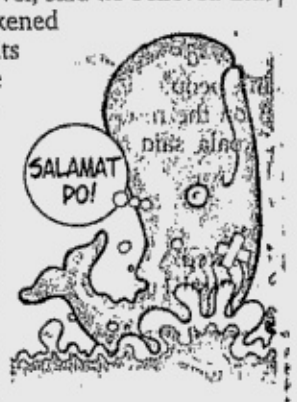
By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A wounded sperm whale, believed to be a victim of illegal fishing, was rescued on Friday in the waters off Puntod Islet in Panglao town in Bohol.

Panglao Mayor Doloreich Dumaluan on Saturday said the whale suffered two bullet wounds, several lacerations and bruises all over its body and tail.

The whale is seven meters long and weighs over 2,000 kilos.

The mayor, however, said he believed that the whale has weakened not because of its wounds but because its tail has been tied with fishnets.



Four fishermen identified as Rey Arbiso, Tonton Clemenia, a certain Bebing and another unidentified fisherman, first noticed the very weak whale near the Puntod Islet.

Dumaluan said the fishermen then asked the help of the divers and marine biologist from the Bohol Marine Triangle, and towed the whale to the shallow waters off Barangay Danao.

The mayor, who is also a doctor, applied medicine to the whale's wounds before they allowed it to swim back to the sea on Saturday.

Dumaluan did not believe that the fishermen in the area were responsible for what had happened to the whale.

He said fishermen in the three towns of Panglao, Dauis and Baclayon are aware of the provincial government's campaign to preserve whales and dolphins.

The leaders in these three towns have formed the Bohol Marine Triangle, chaired by Dumaluan, to protect whales and dolphins that have made the seas off Bohol as their migratory habitat.

Dumaluan said the provincial government of Bohol is actively promoting dolphin and whale watching to foreigners within the Bohol Marine Triangle.

But he said the Bohol Marine Triangle is a migratory route of whales from the Pacific Ocean via Surigao and Camiguin seas.

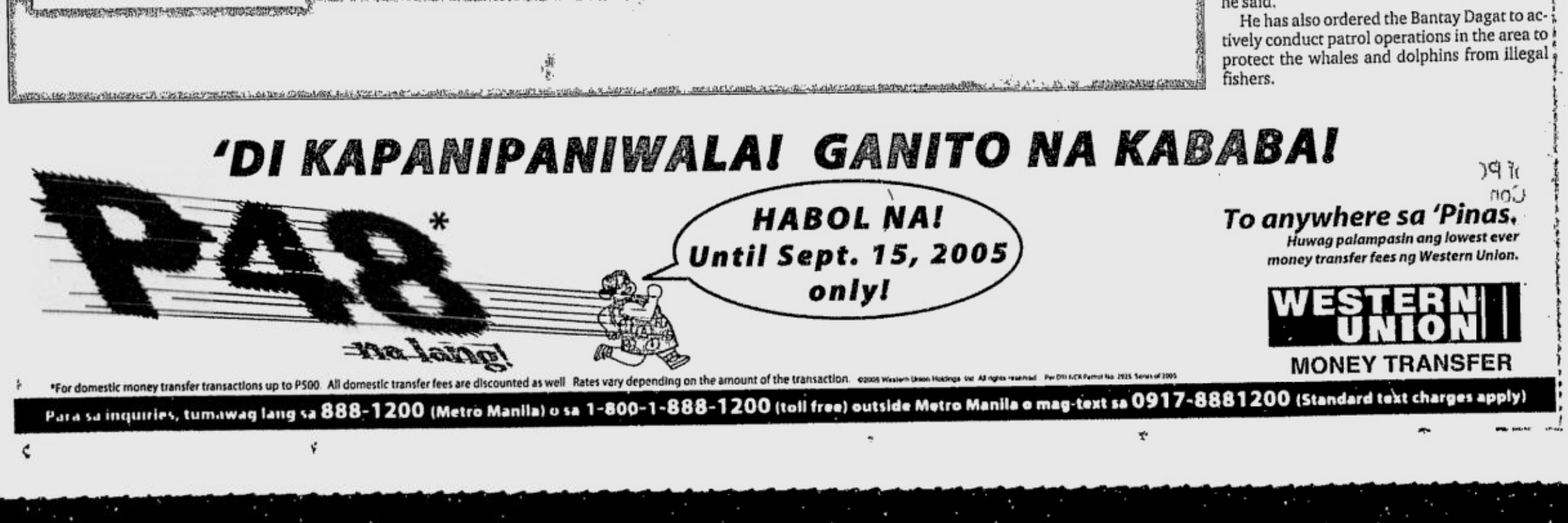
"The whale might have been caught by illegal fishermen in other area. Illegal fishermen using big fishing vessels have firearms, and they might have shot the whale after it escaped from the fishnets," the mayor said.

After they treated the wounds of the whale, Dumaluan said, they pushed the whale back to the sea.

"It seemed that the whale wanted to thank us for treating its wounds and getting out from the fishnets that tied in its tail. The whale did not want to leave us for over two hours. But when it finally swam towards the ocean, the whale jumped several times in the waters, maybe that was a form of expressing thanks to us," Dumaluan said.

The municipal government extended citations and P3,000 cash to the four fishermen, he said.

He has also ordered the Bantay Dagat to actively conduct patrol operations in the area to protect the whales and dolphins from illegal fishers.



Councils to regulate water use, ensure supply

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Local officials in Central Luzon on Saturday agreed to establish water councils to coordinate actions to stop an "impending serious water shortage" in the region in 2025.

The creation of the councils was one of the strategies outlined in a resolution adopted by more than 100 leaders in the region at the close of the two-day Central Luzon Integrated Water Resource Management Summit.

The strategies dealing with the looming water crisis as well as floods, drought and environmental degradation were discussed with scientists.

Ramon Alikpala, executive director of the National Water Resources Board, welcomed the move to localize the management of water sources and regulation of their use.

He said this was a "a step in the right direction."

The approach has taken off the ground just this year, beginning with Central Visayas (Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor), he said.

Former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun is helping in these efforts, he said.

"Water is best managed by the same people who live off on the resource," Alikpala said at the plenary session where the results of the workshops were presented.

Central Luzon, located north of Metro Manila, has almost nine million residents.

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, co-chair of the Regional Development Council, said the challenge was how to ensure the steady supply of water for households and the farm and business sectors in the region.

Experts who spoke at the summit pointed to a 50-percent shortage in 20 years as demand for water was projected to surpass the potential supply of 12.5 million cubic meters.

They also called attention to competing uses and conflicts over water, declining rainfall and higher temperature that lessen water supply, and deforestation and siltation that reduce the capacity of forests, watersheds and dams to hold water. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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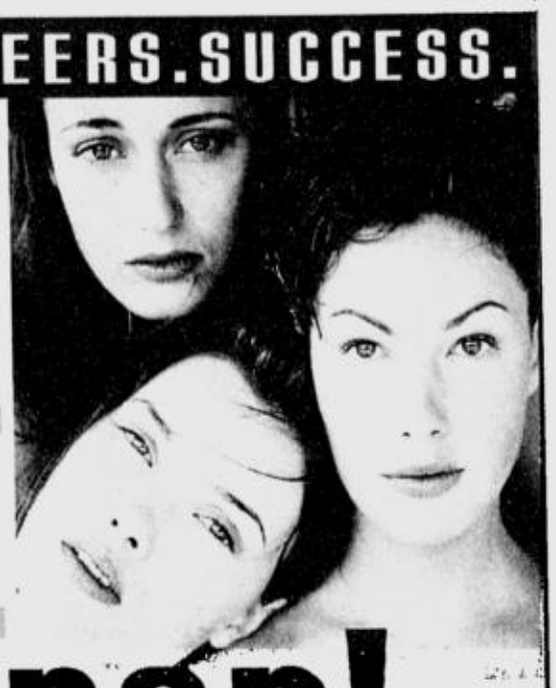

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PHILCOMSAT

The statements made by Erlinda I. Bildner and Victor V. Africa in their Notice published in newspapers on June 29, 2005 are replete with erroneous and deceiving assertions and conclusions, in their obvious attempt to validate their purported authority to represent Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) and Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

We are setting the record straight to expose these half-truths.

The decision promulgated by the Supreme Court on June 15, 2005 in G.R. No. 141796 and G.R. 141804 may only affect POTC, Philcomsat and PHC if and from the date that it becomes final and executory, and only to the extent that the interest of the government is concerned. It is relevant to point out that the Sandiganbayan has certified that it has not issued a writ of execution to implement the compromise agreement. The SC decision cannot be used as a blanket authority to confer legitimacy to the self-proclaimed board led by Victor Africa and Erlinda Bildner. The Africa-Bildner board cannot arrogate unto themselves the authority of the courts of law to nullify meetings held by the duly-constituted Boards of Directors of POTC, Philcomsat and PHC.

By virtue of the writ of sequestration issued by the Presidential Commission on Good Government over POTC and Philcomsat, and the fact that the shares are still subject of various pending cases, including Sandiganbayan Civil Case No. 0009, the transfer of the shares reducing the government's interest to 35% cannot be made unilaterally by the Africa-Bildner board.

The Supreme Court itself issued a Temporary Restraining Order on March 29, 2000 to enjoin the implementation of the Sandiganbayan Resolution and the compromise agreement wherein the government's interest was reduced from 40% to 35%.

It is a crucial fact that the SC decision did not validate the meetings and election of the Africa-Bildner board in September 2000, which were held at the time that the TRO prohibiting the implementation of the compromise agreement was in effect. Their acts are constitutive of contempt, and they cannot perpetrate such illegal act by now proclaiming that they can represent POTC, Philcomsat and PHC.

The meetings of POTC and Philcomsat held in August 2004 wherein the government voted its shares through Independent Realty Corp. and Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. are valid and lawful. These meetings were held under the supervision of the Securities and Exchange Commission and in the presence of representatives of the PCGG. At this time, the SC TRO was still in effect, and the government still had 40% interest in POTC. The official statements and actions of the Office of the President, the PCGG and SEC confirm government's 40% equity.

Nowhere in the SC decision did the court declare the August 2004 POTC and Philcomsat meetings as invalid. In fact, no court or tribunal has ruled that the meetings/elections are illegal. Neither does the SC decision "question" the proxy to elect the PHC directors, as Africa and Bildner have claimed. It is simply preposterous for them to claim that the petition filed before the Supreme Court in 2000 was instituted to question the legality of the POTC and Philcomsat meetings conducted in 2004.

While there have been attempts by Victor Africa to question the PHC meeting held on August 31, 2004, the court has not yet rendered a decision. Other cases had also been filed by the Africa-Bildner board before different tribunals, but no court has expressly ruled that the Africa-Bildner board can represent POTC, Philcomsat and PHC. By issuing such malicious and self-serving statements, Africa is pre-empting the courts where the cases are pending, perhaps even attempting to influence and shortcut the proceedings in the said courts.

Obviously, the Africa-Bildner board is using the SC decision to give them a semblance of authority so they can continue dissipating the assets and goodwill of POTC, Philcomsat and PHC. The POTC and Philcomsat boards want to take this opportunity to WARN the public that they have not authorized I-Freedom Communications Corp. to use Philcomsat's legislative franchise and that Philcomsat did not deal with the I-Freedom directors and officers who are now facing criminal charges before the Department of Justice.

POTC and Philcomsat shall continue to protect the interest of the corporations and their shareholders, including the National Government, and any transaction not undertaken by the duly constituted boards of POTC, Philcomsat and PHC shall be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

LET THE PUBLIC BE WARNED.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF POTC AND PHILCOMSAT

Comelec starts probe, but where's Garci?

From page A1

it---by sending out letters to all and sundry, except the one man who could shed light in the scandal, Virgilio Garcillano.

"We sent out letters to all persons mentioned in the Garci tapes to comment on the issue," said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. However, he added that the whereabouts of Garcillano, a former Comelec commissioner, could not be established.

Disclosures of wiretapped telephone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and a man the opposition has identified as Garcillano purporting to show that she cheated in the May 2004 election have plunged the nation into its worst political crisis since the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Ms Arroyo has confessed she talked to an election official and apologized for a "lapse in judgment" but has denied any wrongdoing.

In a recent telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Garcillano himself admitted his was the voice in the wiretap, but he said that the section in which the opposition had claimed showed Ms Arroyo wanted assurance of a one-million vote margin was doctored.

En banc resolution

On June 28, the Comelec, in an en banc resolution, decided to conduct an inquiry into the wiretap. Nothing has been heard of the effort until yesterday when Abalos announced that letters had been sent in the past week "to all persons mentioned in the Garci tape."

He said the letters were not subpoenas, which required a response. He did not say, however, that the letters could be ignored.

Among those mentioned in the tapped conversations were military officers, including Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Also named were lawyer Lintang Bedol, election supervisor of Maguindanao, and former Sen. Robert Barbers.

Abalos acknowledged that the tapes' authenticity had not been established and that these could not be used as evidence. But he said that for the poll body's investigation to move, Comelec officials had listened to all the CDs that had come out and sent letters to those whose names were mentioned.

Elusive Garci

When asked if Garcillano was sent a letter as well, Abalos said the Comelec was unable to do that because it could not find him.

"We don't know where he is," said Abalos.

The elusive ex-commissioner's whereabouts continue to be a mystery. He has been rumored to have flown to Singapore and London, but the immigration bureau has maintained Garcillano has not left the country.

Opposition lawmakers have demanded the resignation of Abalos, accusing him of being part of the Comelec mess.

But Abalos has sought to distance himself from the controversy, saying in media interviews that the "Comelec is not Garcillano" and rejecting suggestions that he take responsibility for it or that he should commit seppuku.

Last week, lawyer Elly Pamatong and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Antonio Villanueva filed an impeachment complaint against Abalos and two other commissioners.

ABALOS

Nuisance case?

"These extremely morally corrupt and spiritually rotten commissioners are the worst enemies of the state because they have either directly or indirectly subverted—or indirectly and approvingly allowed—the total destruction of the sovereign will of the Filipino people through bribery, graft and corruption and massive electoral fraud," Pamatong and Villanueva said in a 10-page complaint filed in the House of Representatives.

Abalos has dismissed the complaint as the work of "nuisance" candidates in the last election.

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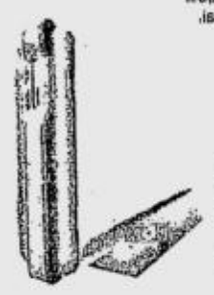

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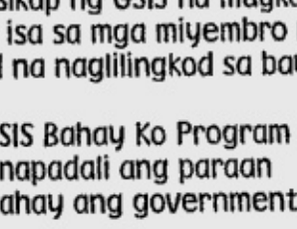

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Rosales says wrong values . . .

From page A1

Instead, Rosales articulated the conservatism of Christendom's new leader, Pope Benedict XVI, sharing the Pontiff's view that priests should not meddle in politics in the nation with a history of longhaired priests leading revolts in the hills and mounting street barricades in the cities.

During the plenary of the 91-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines last month in the midst of strident calls for the resignation of Ms Arroyo over allegations that she stole last year's elections—charges the Chief Executive adamantly denied—Rosales was the sobering voice.

The plenary adopted Rosales' position, enunciated in an earlier pastoral letter, against joining the chorus of voices seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster but admonishing her not to ignore them altogether.

Rosales said he did not have the stomach for politics and preferred instead to rouse a society lethargic to the plight of the poor.

"I find it without hope the way Filipinos practice politics," he said. "I really pity the government because they have no real thinkers."

Rosales said he was particularly disappointed at the congressional effort to legalize the P13-billion-a-year "jueteng" as a way of stamping out the illegal "poor man's" lottery.

"Can't Congress think of something better?" he asked.

Wrong values

"They're always in a rush. It's bad enough to get money in the wrong way, but they are also transmitting to the people the wrong values. This is what's terrifying for our country. And I don't think we can rely on the government on this issue."

If bishops and priests were questioning Rosales' silence amid the "Hello Garci" wiretaps and illegal gambling payoffs implicating the Arroyo family, it was because they expected him to act like Sin.

"During the time of Marcos, the Church intervened because it was already near helplessness," he said. "You can be sure of it that when it happens again, the Church will bounce back."

Rosales said at the heart of the nation's problem was its values. Because of this, he said the country was lurching "from crisis to crisis, from corruption to corruption."

The Manila prelate was so dismayed at the situation that he refused to head the CBCP. That would have further exposed him to national politics.

A centavo a day

Rosales has been quietly raising funds for the poor through his Pondo ng Pinoy pet project. More than providing easy loans for the poorest residents of the archdiocese, it's meant to encourage the public to do something concrete by saving a centavo daily for the poor.

Consistent with his view of politics, Rosales was also very cautious in the company of politicians.

Even before the "Garci" tapes surfaced, Church sources told the INQUIRER that a number of high-ranking government officials had been going to the archbishop's residence in Manila to seek his blessing and advice.

Among those who sought an audience was Vice President Noli de Castro whom the archbishop and ex-President Aquino reportedly tried to meet days before seven Cabinet secretaries and three senior officials resigned and triggered calls for Ms Arroyo to step down. Aquino later joined the clamor for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

Rosales said he never sought such a meeting with De Castro amid widespread rumors the Vice President was being enlisted by the maverick secretaries in their effort to force the resignation of Ms Arroyo.

Back to the roots

"There were innuendos to get me, but I was really careful," he recalled. "So I was surprised when I saw in the papers the following day that Cory and I were seeking a meeting with Noli." He said he was hurt by the reports but had forgiven their authors.

Still, the incident and the regular flocking of politicians to Rosales' showed they were all looking to him to play a crucial role, for better or worse, in this time of crisis. Rosales said he was not convinced that ousting Ms Arroyo was the key to solving it.

"There is something wrong," he said. "We should go back to the roots."

What exists, he said, is not a crisis in leadership but a "crisis of the led."

"We have lost some of our Christian values. We have lost the values of sacrifice and discipline. We have to change the mentality of Filipinos," he said.

"You begin with yourself." *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

First Gentleman returns for sister's burial

From page A1

when, despite being burdened by controversy and accusations of taking "jueteng" payoffs, he would give them a small wave and a smile.

He also appeared to have lost weight since he left Manila for San Francisco, California, on July 6.

There were no smiles either from the entourage that met the First Gentleman at the airport—from his younger brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo and youngest son Dato, to airport security chief, retired Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, and staff members.

Memories as boys

Without speaking to reporters, the First Gentleman and his group immediately went to the dignitaries' lounge. Iggy Arroyo told the INQUIRER in a brief airport interview that the family had yet to decide when their sister's funeral would be held.

On the phone later, the congressman said of his siblings: "We are very close. I remember when we were young, we would have Sunday lunches together with our mom."

He said his brother had been told immediately of their sister's death.

Separate ways

"But I don't know where he was when he was notified about it," he added.

From the airport, the Arroyo brothers apparently went to different destinations.

Iggy Arroyo said he went straight to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati, where the remains of their sister, who has been cremated, lie.

It was in the same church, the INQUIRER was told, where the young Jose Miguel took Gloria Macapagal for his bride 37 years ago.

The First Couple is to observe their wedding anniversary tomorrow.

"He must have gone to see the President first in Malacañang," the congressman said when asked where the First Gentleman went.

Congressman Arroyo said he did not know if his brother planned to leave again for the United States to resume his life abroad.

Staying or leaving again?

Santos said he had yet to talk to the First Gentleman if he planned to leave again or if he would stay in Manila.

The President, who is fighting impeachment moves at the House of Representatives, announced in June that her husband had volunteered to live abroad to keep her from being distracted from governing the country.

The First Gentleman has been a magnet for controversy since his wife became President in 2001.

The latest allegation was that he, his brother, and eldest son, Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, had received bribes from the illegal numbers game.

All three have denied the accusations.

Mikey left for San Francisco with his family on July 7. He is rumored to be planning to return to Manila middle of this month.

Burial details

According to the First Gentleman's chief aide Juris Soliman, Llora was the eldest of the children of Lourdes Tuason, her daughter from her first marriage.

Soliman, in a phone interview, said that details of the burial of Llora had still to be worked out.

"[Arroyo] has to be involved in working out these details," Soliman said.

What was certain though was that Arroyo was home in time for his wedding anniversary.

"It's sad if a couple is not together," Ms Arroyo said on radio on Friday, when asked how her wedding anniversary would be.

'Be ready to suffer'

But she said she did not become President to "enjoy" life.

"My father always said, if you are President, you should be ready to sacrifice," she said, referring to her father, the late former President Diosdado Macapagal. "You should be prepared to suffer."

Ms Arroyo said this was one of her father's reminders that she often thought about in dealing with her own situation and that of the country now.

Relief for GMA may be short-lived

From page A1

riagate" tapes only last month.

Critics, as well as presidential supporters, went on a feeding frenzy on the constitutional tour de force. Vociferous critics lambasted the Sona as a diversionary maneuver that would take the heat off the scandals, allow Ms Arroyo to buy time, prolong her stay in office, and catch her breath.

Viewed from the effects of the Sona, the critics could be right. Others credit her for making a "shrewd" move.

The Sona refocused the debate from the scandals stemming from allegations of corruption involving the illegal gambling payoffs to relatives of Ms Arroyo and her manipulation of the results of the 2004 election.

Redefining agenda

Even so, Ms Arroyo's call to shift from the presidential system to the European-style parliamentary system, within a federal structure, was successful in redefining the national agenda.

"Our system has degenerated to the extent that it is difficult for anyone to make any headway yet keep his hands clean," she said. "Perhaps we politicians have done our best; but maybe our best is not enough, given the present system. Perhaps we have strained the present political system to its final limit."

However controversial and flawed is the proposal to replace the system that has defined political competition in Philippine democracy for the past 60 years, it directed the agenda to a systemic change rather than left it mired in the marshes of scandal.

For a change, the rhetoric of debate has now been channeled to an idea away from scandals. The President has been criticized for evading the issue of alleged election-rigging, for which an impeachment complaint has already been filed in the House of Representatives.

Had Ms Arroyo addressed issues of corruption and election cheating, she would have played into the hands of her enemies and would have allowed them to set the agenda.

By ignoring the impeachment issues, the President implicitly sent the message that such issues are to be dealt with at the proper constitutional process and have no place in the Sona.

Had she focused on the scandals, she would have squandered the political capital vested in the Philippine presidency. The Sona demonstrated once again the political truism that the Philippine presidency has enormous formal and reserve powers, which give the President the weapons to turn back political assaults. One of these weapons is the agenda-setting power of the presidency.

Turning point

Whatever the advantages and disadvantages of the parliamentary system vis-à-vis the unitary presidential system—which are expected to dominate the current political agenda in tandem with the impeachment case—it can't be denied that the past three weeks marked a pivotal turning point in the embattled second Arroyo presidency.

PRESIDENT Arroyo

Since the disclosure of the tapes in June, the administration teetered on the brink of possible collapse. In the first week of July, the administration was widely predicted to fall within weeks.

This worst-case scenario did not materialize after the resignation of 10 Cabinet members and senior officials on July 8, the withdrawal of support by erstwhile Edsa II ally, former President Corazon Aquino, and the defection of the Liberal Party. These withdrawals failed to create an avalanche of desertions and sink a badly damaged ship.

Fortunately for the administration, its opponents failed to sustain street marches, which the Guardian newspaper of London observed would need to be "at least 10 times bigger before they become viable people power movement of the scale that ousted former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada."

The refusal of the military and the Catholic Church to join the demand for resignation—as they did in the people power against Marcos and Estrada—is credited for saving the Arroyo administration.

After Ms Arroyo's survival from turbulence up to her Sona on July 25, the grim outlook has changed. It has enabled the President to launch a counteroffensive to explain her call for constitutional change.

However, Ms Arroyo is not yet out of the woods. There is the impending trial which could raise the profile of the corruption and election-rigging issues.

Less pessimistic

The outlook for regime survival from the outside—from investment risk analyst—is less pessimistic than that from inside the Philippines, partly because foreigners view events from a dispassionate perspective while Filipinos, who are in the center of crisis, tend to look for the worst, given their penchant for self-laceration.

The July 22 report of the US investment bank Bear Stearns & Co. Inc. said there was a 50-60 percent probability that the President would last until 2010, a slim 23-35 percent chance that she would have a "graceful exit" via a new Constitution and a 15-20 percent probability she would be impeached by Congress.

The report ruled out her removal from office through another people power uprising. It said her remaining in office was "not a strong case scenario," noting that its likelihood "was still stronger than the two alternative scenarios" given the weakness of evidence implicating her.

The report predicted that if she survives until January 2006, her chances of remaining President would increase to 65-75 percent. "GMA is tougher politically than the opposition expected," said the report, noting that "the longer the impeachment and the Cha-cha debates went on, the more the President's political support would recover."

The US-based credit rating agency, Standard & Poor's, said the specter of prolonged political instability was distracting the government from fiscal and economic reforms. It warned that the instability would result in continued "muddle through" that would yield only moderate progress. S&P said that the political crisis could neither be solved by a shift to a parliamentary system nor by the ouster of President Arroyo.

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GMA situation likened to Marcos' twilight years

From page A1

They say they have a strange feeling of déjà vu as the Arroyo administration's response to its credibility problems mimics the damage-control methods employed by a besieged Marcos in his last years in power.

Marcos, for instance, formed the Agrava Fact-Finding Commission to investigate the 1983 assassination of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, a murder believed to have been plotted in Malacañang. The inquiry eventually pinned the plot on a military cabal, but was seen early on as the dictator's way of dousing public outrage over Aquino's death.

The Agrava panel may have now found a parallel with the truth commission, which Ms Arroyo has endorsed to the Catholic Church as the venue that can look into charges that she rigged last year's elections, lawyer Marichu Lambino said.

For Lambino, the two leaders shared the same game plan: Form an "independent" body that will investigate "their own wrongdoing" in a bid to stave off massive protests.

"But both rulers in their time knew the truth even before they had been discovered," she said.

Lambino, president of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines during the Marcos years, is now with the Public Interest Law Center.

On the public relations front, Marcos' live media appearance in the months leading to the 1986 people power revolt "became more and more scarce and came out in controlled productions of his crony media," she said.

Ms Arroyo has, of late, also limited her live airtime and has instead "increasingly relied on her press secretary," Lambino noted.

Maitet Diokno-Pascual, an economist who chairs the Institute for Popular Democracy, noted that Malacañang's PR machinery had also resorted to having more occasions for large gatherings and group photo-ops with Ms Arroyo.

"Marcos had his Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. It's Arroyo's Kampi and Lakas today," said Pascual, daughter of the late Sen. Jose Diokno, who fought Marcos' martial rule.

"The contrived media poses of Ms Arroyo today are what strikes me as being most familiar—as in, hey, I've seen that before—with Mr. Marcos in his twilight days as president," she said.

The only difference, she said, was that Marcos would have his entire family sitting around him, while "Ms Arroyo is alone, having 'banished' her husband and her "jueteng"-implicated son away from her midst."

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, who quit Kampi and the House defense committee chairmanship last month to join calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation, recalled a footage of Marcos showing himself surrounded by his generals in the Palace, calling for calm and sobriety, at the start of the people power uprising in February 1986.

Ms Arroyo already had her version of this photo-op at the height of the political crisis, showing her in formation and flashing "thumbs-up" signs with the top brass of the Philippine National Police, according to Golez.

Then and now, "we see a parade of local officials in Malacañang, the Palace talking about support coming from abroad. Yet the President is made to avoid unpredictable crowds, (his handlers) afraid that the audience might react negatively," he said.

Government critics during the Marcos regime were under threat of being jailed or "salvaged," Lambino said.

Today persons—including the media at one point—face charges of inciting to sedition from the Department of Justice for playing the controversial "Hello, Garci" tapes.

Crowds for hire

And then there's the "*hakot*" (crowds-for-hire) rallies.

"Marcos was fond of producing rallies in favor of his dictatorship using the Kabataang Barangay (headed by daughter Imee) and the *hakot* system of his barangays. Gloria is resorting to the same *hakot* rallies using her loyal mayors," Lambino said.

Makati City Rep. Agapito Aquino said that as in the protest marches after the 1983 assassination of his brother Ninoy, police estimates of the opposition gatherings were tempered while ballpark figures of administration rallies were inflated.

"They said the (opposition's) mammoth rally on Ayala Avenue [on July 13] numbered only 40,000. We thought there were roughly 60,000," Aquino said.

"Then, they said there were 250,000 in the Manila rally (of Ms Arroyo's supporters) on July 16. We think that that's too much," he said.

Image makers

Asked if the image makers and defenders of Ms Arroyo had precursors during the Marcos administration, Aquino said: "Well, you had people like (Jose) Aspiras and (Gregorio) Cendaña painting a good picture, as if all (was) well."

When Marcos started to receive dialysis for his lupus, Aquino said: "He was kept away for a time. They tried to present that he was strong until people started noticing the plastic strips on his arms and his bloated face."

Nowadays, the administration has come up with a communications plan presenting Ms Arroyo as a likeable President and has Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor saying all's well with the country.

Aside from the propaganda and counter-propaganda of beleaguered administrations, political analyst Ricardo Malay sees a common political tool between the Marcos regime and the Arroyo administration.

Charter refuge

"The Constitution and the rule of law have always been the refuge of rotten regimes," Malay said, referring to the oft-repeated mantra of constitutionality and due process amid serious questions on the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

Malay said Marcos, a brilliant lawyer, made sure that the Constitution would be on his side when he wanted to prolong his stay in power.

He said Marcos declared martial law in accordance with the requirements of the 1935 Constitution and when his acts would no longer conform with the Constitution, he had it changed.

Eventually, he already had the legislative power through his presidential decrees. "(Ms Arroyo) would pale in comparison with the machinations of Marcos," Malay said.

Then as now, Malay sees certain distortions of facts. "Now, you have the Estrada X-tape," Malay said referring to the tape supposedly of Joseph Estrada discussing destabilization efforts against Ms Arroyo, to counter the "Hello Garci" tapes that laid the basis for the "Gloriagate" controversy.

Dr. Prospero De Vera, a public administration professor in the University of the Philippines, sees in the political crisis shades of Marcosian tactics as employed on five main fronts.

These are the use of government resources, intensified image-building blitz, nature of Cabinet revamps, loyalty check in the police and military, and the threat of criminal prosecution against the President's critics.

Cruz may drop Dy . . .

From page A1

bishop was wary about Dy's real intention if he should decide to come out and testify against Ms Arroyo, his longtime political ally.

"He's too tainted to come out clean," the source said in an interview. "We really don't know what he or the people around him are up to."

Yet another witness?

Cruz did not seem worried about losing Dy as a witness in the Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers game, saying he still had another witness willing to tell how the President allegedly benefited from jueteng money.

"I don't want to talk about the new witness," Cruz said.

The source said the bishop was turned off when Dy was identified in media reports as the supposedly "explosive" witness against Ms Arroyo.

So far, Cruz has presented five witnesses at the Senate inquiry. Some of them have linked First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, son Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo and Jose Miguel's brother Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, to the jueteng payola racket.

Ms Arroyo has denied being involved in any bribery of Commission on Elections officials. The other Arroyos also said the allegations against them were baseless and politically motivated.

Careful with Dy

Although normally open to discussing details about his witnesses, Cruz had been clearly more careful when it came to Dy because of the supposed extent of his knowledge of the President's involvement in jueteng.

It was one of Cruz's witnesses, Sandra Cam, who mentioned in a press conference that there was a new witness who would testify against the President. But she, too, never identified the former governor.

Cruz's camp suspects it was former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III who disclosed Dy's identity to the media, and this has alarmed the bishop's group.

"We don't know what they're up to," the source said. "One possibility is that they're just trying to [get into the good] graces ... [of] Malacañang by threatening to testify against the President."

No, not Tito

The source said Cruz also wanted to avoid lending his credibility to Dy by taking him in as one of his witnesses. "They fear that no one would buy his story if he comes out with Tito Sotto as his backer."

An INQUIRER story on Saturday, quoted two sources as identifying Dy, who is now in the United States, as the potential witness against Ms Arroyo. Sotto was not one of those sources.

The INQUIRER was told that the former senator was, in fact, unwilling to go to media about the Dy matter because he did not want the issue to be tainted with politics.

The INQUIRER did learn that Sotto tried to bring his golf buddy Dy over to Cruz.

Sotto visited the bishop in his office at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines compound in Intramuros, Manila, last month to discuss the matter.

He, in fact, ran into some reporters covering the CBCP, but he declined to talk about the meeting.

Over the weekend, the INQUIRER also learned that Sotto and Cam's lawyer, Francisco Chavez, asked Cruz to keep Dy as witness.

Senate hearing

Chavez on Saturday left for Los Angeles to secure Dy's affidavit, part of the requirements the bishop usually asks from prospective witnesses.

The Senate could resume this week its inquiry into the jueteng controversy. But whether Dy would testify remains a question mark.

"I'm not sure if he's flying home. I'm sure he'll come home one of these days. But as to when, I don't know," a reliable source close to the former governor said in a phone interview.

"[It] is up to him," he said of Dy, who has been staying in California for months.

The source, however, said Dy would not deny that there was a meeting between Ms Arroyo and Comelec directors in her La Vista home, where the poll officers allegedly received money from the President's "*kumare*" Lilia Pineda.

Pre-interview

Pineda is the wife of suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda. She and Comelec directors have denied the payoff allegations.

"One thing's for sure, he [Dy] will not deny it happened," the source said.

Senators Manuel Villar Jr. and Manuel "Lito" Lapid, co-chairs of the Senate investigating panel, are to meet today to finalize the date of the next hearing as well as the new list of witnesses or resource persons.

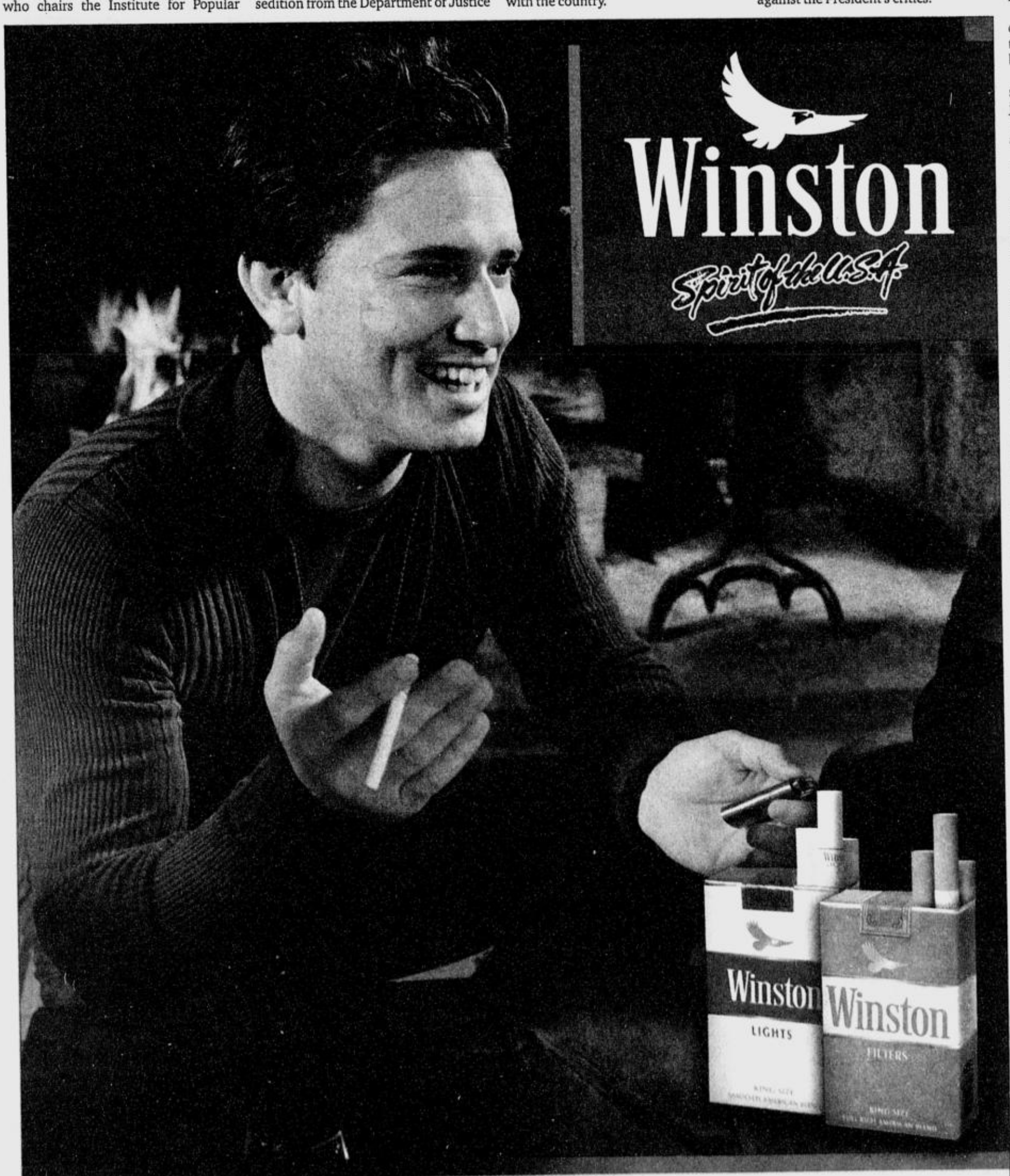
Villar earlier said the resumption of the inquiry had been tentatively set for Wednesday.

If ever Dy agreed to testify, he would undergo an interview by the committee secretariat prior to the hearing proper, in accordance with the so-called "Salonga rule," said Alex Marcelino, Lapid's media relations officer.

"This was done in the past two hearings so the two committees would know if the witness was telling the truth. It appears the two senators are keen on doing this pre-interview [in Dy's case and that of future witnesses]," he said.

As of yesterday, Lapid, head of the committee on games, amusement and sports, was prepared to draft a report on a proposed legalization about jueteng, which had been the basis cited for holding the inquiry.

"We have enough material to draft a report," Marcelino said.



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Truck runs over mother rushing to son hit by bus

WHEN Maria Rosario Malatag saw her eight-year-old son get hit by a bus, she ran to him without thought of her own safety.

She thus never saw the oncoming truck that delivered to her the same fate that had just befallen her little boy.

Police said both the 36-year-old Malatag and her child died in the twin tragedy that happened seconds of each other along E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard in Quezon City Saturday night.

A Cubao-bound bus hit young Argel, as he was crossing the road at 7:10 p.m.

Seeing her boy on the pavement, the mother sprang forward into the path of an Isuzu Elf truck.

Argel never made it to St. Luke's Hospital.

Malatag, on the other hand, tried to fight for her life but succumbed while undergoing surgery.

Eliseo Manzano, 39, who drove the Dominion bus that hit Argel, and Bartolome Hepayo, 28, driver of the truck that hit Malatag, were collared and are now facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Peter Balmaceda, a traffic desk officer, said Manzano even tried to flee the crime scene, but he was flagged down and arrested by traffic enforcers who were alerted about the twin incidents.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old man was killed when his car collided with a truck in another accident in Quezon City.

Daniel Nubia Jr. was killed instantly when his Toyota Corolla and the Fuso tractor truck being driven by John Demaosa, 51, slammed into each other along Araneta Avenue, police said.

Demaosa told police that he was maneuvering his vehicle toward their garage when the truck and car collided along the southbound lane.The impact caused the car to slide under the truck, police said. *DJ Yap*

METROBRIEFS

Shangri-La robbers caught on camera

THEY are not the usual suspects. The Makati Police Department (MPD) reached that conclusion after investigators saw pictures of two robbers who recently struck inside the Shangri-La Hotel. They are new faces, said investigator PO3 Ricky Mel Corpuz after getting hold of photos taken by one of the hotel's elevator security cameras. The pictures showed the robbers from head to mid-chest. These are the ones who reportedly held up Japanese tourist Toyotaka Fujii, who had stayed in a room on the hotel's sixth floor. It was about 2:40 p.m. last July 23 when two men reportedly forced Fujii into his room and then took his cash, ATM cards, cellular phones, and digital camera. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

MMDA footbridges lightning hazards?

THE MANILA Electric Co. (Meralco) has a suggestion to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA): ground your footbridges. Rustico de Borja, Meralco assistant vice president and distribution services chief, said that because the footbridges were made of steel, these could cause electric shock to people using it in case lightning struck the elevated pathwalks. But Borja said a simple device called grounding rods could prevent that from happening. The grounding rods, similar to those found in appliances like refrigerators or air conditioners, would absorb any electric current footbridges might get from a lightning strike and direct it to the ground. Thus, pedestrians using the bridge would be spared the shock. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Diarrhea alert in Mandaluyong

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HUNDREDS of Mandaluyong City residents have complained of stomach pain and diarrhea, alarming and puzzling local officials.

In Barangay Harapin ang Bukas, Victoria Jumaquio, 38, a mother of seven, reportedly died after showing signs of gastroenteritis.

Barangay Chair Zenaida Candelaria said a hundred others had shown similar symptoms.

Ferdinand Barretto, chair of adjacent Barangay Daang Bakal, said at least 12 of his consituents also seemed affected.

Residents started complaining of diarrhea and stomach pains early last week after their water supply reportedly smelled foul and appeared turbid.

Manila Water Company tested the water in the areas the other morning and said it was safe for drinking.

Mayor Neptali Gonzales II announced that the situation was under control as he advised residents to boil their drinking water.

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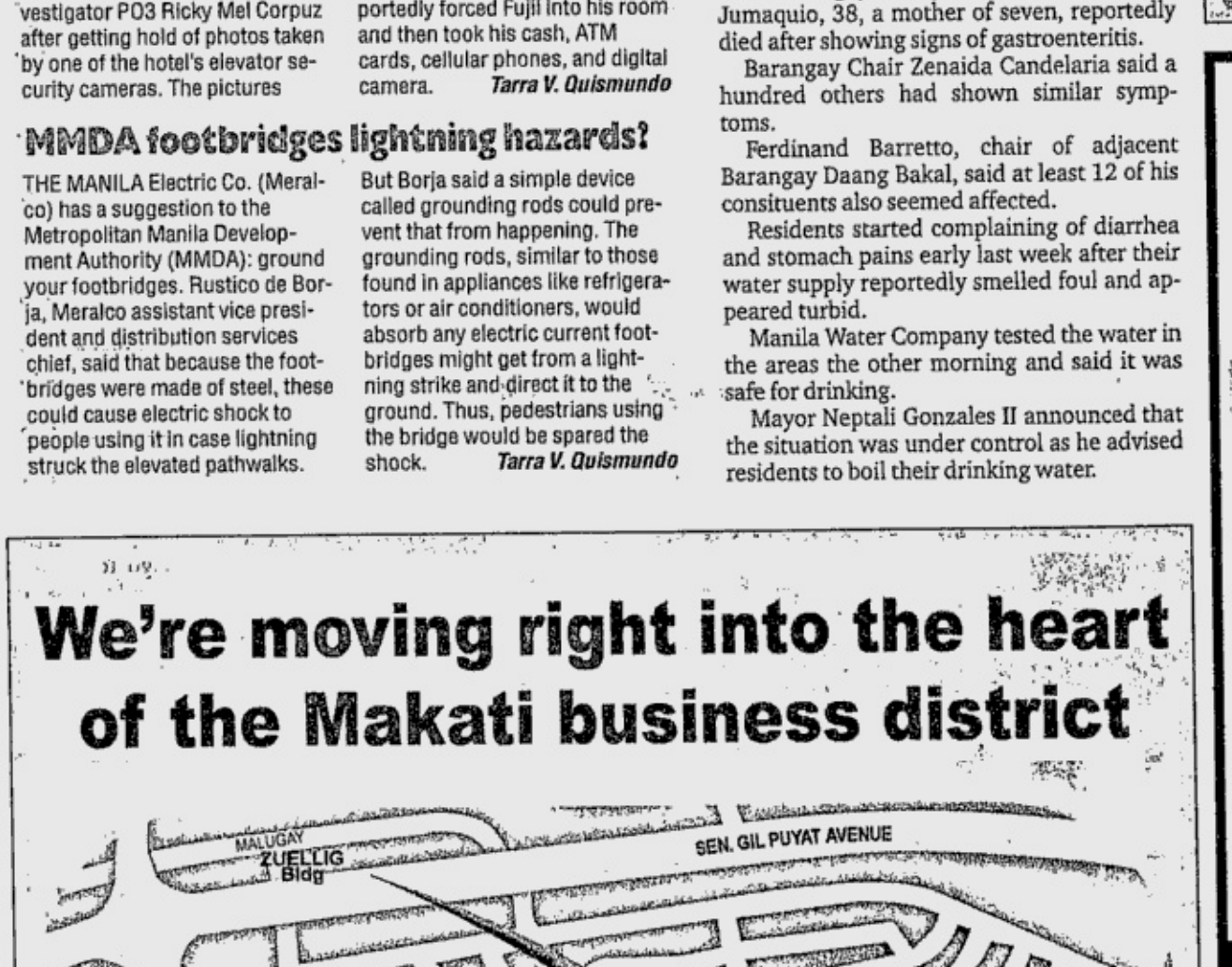

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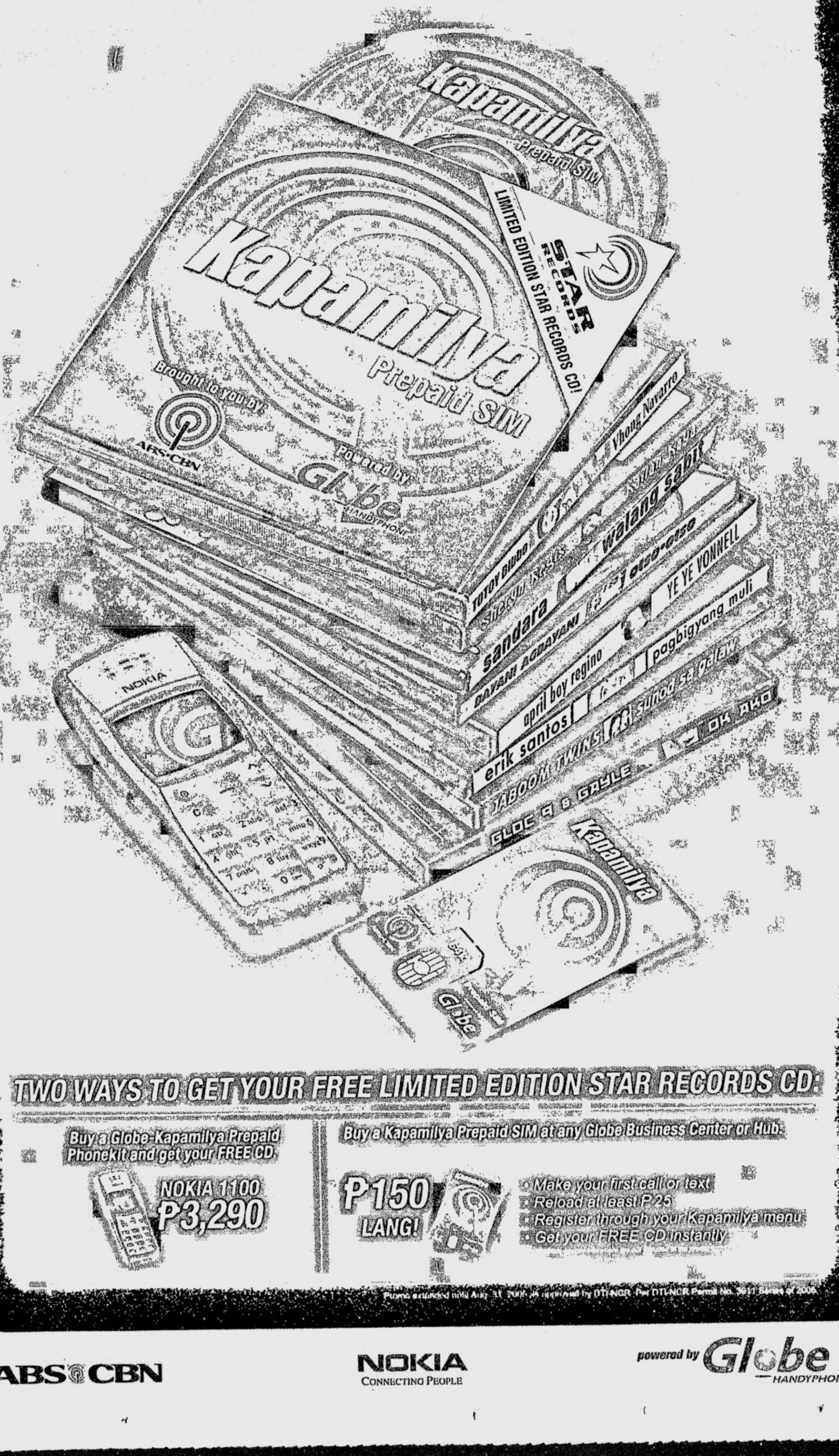

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

RP-San Miguel bows to Yanks, winds up 4th

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIPEI—The RP-San Miguel squad plodded on despite being down by 21 points, pushing the United States to the limit before falling, 99-96, to finish fourth in the 27th Jones Cup on Sunday.

Asi Taulava scattered 23 points, but made two crucial errors in the end game as the US, which won the title on Saturday night—after the Filipinos lost to the Taiwanese—escaped with its ninth straight win.

It was not so much that the Philippines, which drew the respect of the hostile gallery, was trying to finish second. It would have been understandable, too, if the Filipinos had just folded up after taking that heartbreak loss to the Taiwanese.

The Filipinos wound up with a 6-3 record but could have finished second to the Americans with a victory.

Trailing 59-80 in the third, the Filipinos summoned whatever was left in their battered, tired bodies to make a game out of it in the final 5 minutes 46 seconds. Jondan Salvador capped a 23-4 RP run with a layup off his own steal for 82-84.

And at 91-92 after a Taulava short stab, the Philippines had a chance to take the lead. But Taulava overshot an outlet pass to Salvador, leading to a pretty turnaround by Marcus Douhthit.

Taulava got the chance to shove the Philippines closer after drawing the last foul of Chukwineke Okosa with 69 seconds left. But the burly Talk 'N Text center muffed his second charity.

The Taipei Physical Education College gym was filled Sunday night, with Taiwan (6-2) set to battle South Korea (4-4) after the RP-US game, and the home team needing a Philippine defeat to finish third.

Qatar (6-2) was to clash with Russia (5-3) in the last game.

The crowd rooted for the Americans, who opened up by hitting baskets from inside and out, including powerful dunks that delighted them.

But the heart that the Filipinos showed was appreciated by the Taiwanese later on and the hosts gave the RP Team, which bowed in center court after the game, a hearty round of applause.

The game almost got out of hand after Douhthit and Kerby Raymundo came to blows with 6:11 to go in the third.

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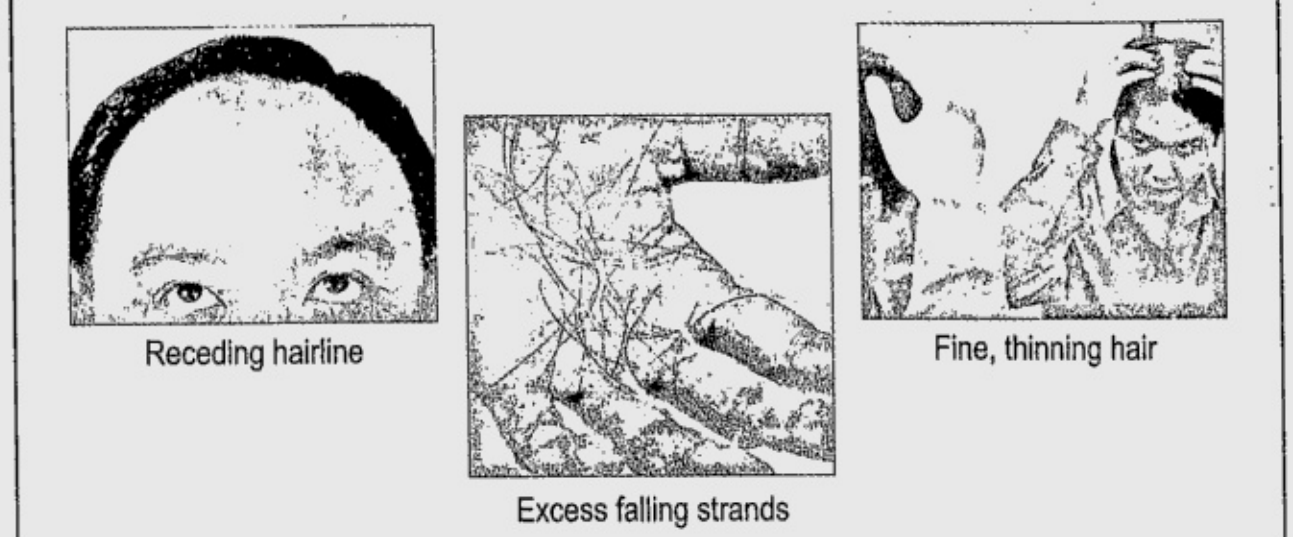

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Dream turns into baby nightmare

HE'S supposed to fascinate.

He nearly succeeded in putting the whole stadium to sleep.

He's fancied to knock out his foe cold.

He sent frustrated fans leaving and calling it a night with still three good fights left in the stellar card.

The young, promising boxer has fought big bouts, has been sent to the best of the best training centers in the United States, Roach and McGirt, to name only two.

On Saturday night at the cool, renovated San Andres Coliseum, posted up as a gala for boxing, Z "The Dream" Gorres was received with cheers by expectant countrymen.

Sorry, he failed to deliver the promise.

Gorres instead turned into a budding nightmare.

* * *

That's far from fascinating.

If to an acclaimed pianist, he bungled his first homecoming concerto.

Truth is our main man was supposed to be (only) sharpening his knives before going for the Orient, and then the world crown.

Gorres, lean and luminous, did appear ready for the world in the tense and tight opening round. In fact, in the second round, he lurked like a full-sized marvel and toppled his Thai foe with an overhand left to the head.

The crowd roared, fans got up and thumped their happy feet. They were now ready for the main dish.

* * *

But bugles and drums suddenly turned mute and silent.

What would follow, in the next eight rounds, was an inexplicable display of the dullest boxing by someone trumpeted as the next big star.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

It would've been great if the Thai had not bothered to get up, and just stayed down for the count before collecting his $1,500 purse.

We would've been celebrating the arrival of Z Gorres today.

Sorry, the Thai refused to be shamed and tagged as a chef or tuk-tuk driver.

By standing his ground, the slow and predictable stranger succeeded in exposing the soft ends of the up-and-coming Pinoy celebrity.

Snorted Gov. Manny Piñol, a fighter who has seen enough bouts to know the difference between a duel and a lullaby: "He's got the right name, the Big Z, he's a certified sleeping pill."

* * *

It would've been understandable if the Thai had himself proved complicated.

But the slow visitor was an easy target, almost accommodating in his flat daring.

Gorres, moving in and out with tentative combinations, proved to be a dud as he refused to dig in and go for the kill.

It was a long, lonely night for fans but Gorres just waited and coasted along, a lazy sea vessel waiting to dock.

Of course, he was declared winner by unanimous decision.

However, Gorres would be unfair if he had given himself a passing grade for his performance on Saturday. He did not look even half ready for the Orient title.

* * *

Repeat: the Thai was hardly a puzzle.

But Gorres appeared as though he was wrestling with a bigger inner problem.

The feeling among the majority inside the refurbished venue was one of great disappointment.

They were to blame for having pinned great hopes on him?

Maybe, but Gorres had himself sworn he could go for either the Orient or world crown any day given the chance.

Technically, the problem, other than the absence of necessary fierceness, was a weak stance.

Gorres' legs were spread too wide apart, a flaw that his trainers in the US must've tried but failed to correct.

That posture would've been perfect if he were out on the tennis court returning a

BARE EYE/ A27

NBI agents monitor NCAA venues; Banal debuts for San Beda

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	7	0
PCU	6	1
Mapua	5	2
SSC	3	4
Benilde	3	4
Perpetual	2	5
San Beda	1	6
JRU	1	6

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
11:30 a.m.—SSC vs CSB (Jrs)
1 p.m.—SSC vs St. CSB (Srs)
2:30 p.m.—PCU vs SBC (Jrs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs SBC (Srs)

THE PHILIPPINE Christian U Dolphins try to get back on track against the hopeful San Beda Lions today in a game that will be played against a rather intriguing backdrop—that of NBI agents posted in and out of Cuneta Astrodome.

Koy Banal will try to salvage what he can as the new coach of the Lions at 4 p.m. in the last of four matches kicking off the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament.

The NCAA board sought the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation to look into alleged "game fixing, point shaving and other gambling forms using the results of the basketball league event."

NBI/ A28

FAR EASTERN U's starting center Mark Isip battles for possession against La Salle playmaker TY Tang in yesterday's game. The Tamaraws held off the Archers, 69-62 for their sixth straight victory. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tams thunder past Archers; Tigers escape

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern U Tamaraws simply kept their remarkable season going.

Clicking on all cylinders all the way, the Tamaraws subdued the defending champion La Salle Archers, 69-62, yesterday for their sixth straight win in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

League star Arwind Santos delivered another double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds on top of four blocks to lead a dominant performance by the Tamaraws' first five.

"It was our toughest game, our closest game," said Tamaraws coach Bert Flores.

GAMES THURSDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
10 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
12 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Srs)

"We limited (Joseph) Yeo and (JV) Casio. Our outside shooting also improved."

The Archers, who blasted the Tamaraws in three games in the Finals last season, wound up with a 3-3 record as Yeo and Casio were limited to a combined 15 points.

Earlier, the University of Santo Tomas Tigers posted their first win by nipping the National U Bulldogs, 107-100, in overtime.

Sophomore guard Jojo Duncil, who delivered a career-high 22 points, led the

TAMS/ A31

Ardina, Unson strike in US Kids golf

DOTTIE Ardina notched a fourth straight victory to move within a title of an unprecedented age group sweep while Andie Unson celebrated her first major international victory Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in the US Kids World Golf Championships in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Ardina, making up for a sorry finish in the Junior World two weeks ago, scored a nine-hole even-par 36 on the final day after shooting 18-hole rounds of four-under 68 and a 71 in the first two days to claim the girls' 11 years title by seven shots over Aurora Kann of Pennsylvania (182).

Having won the 8, 9 and 10 years-and-under titles the past three years, Ardina is on track in her bid to become the first girl to capture all five age-group titles in US Kids Golf when she plays out her final year in 2006.

Sharing the limelight was Unson who won the girls' 10 years title by beating Annie Park of New York. Unson scored rounds of 36-33-38 for a 107 total, four strokes ahead of Park (37-41-33).

Miguel Tabuena staged a big final-day rally to salvage third place in the boys' 10 years category, a year after winning the 9 years crown.

Tabuena submitted the day's best round of five-under 67 Saturday to end up third at 211, five behind winner Austin Degiate of Texas.

Tabuena beat the reigning Junior World champion Zachary Martin (who tied for seventh) and runner-up Jay Burleson in a star-studded field of 83 players from all over the world.

Another RP bet, Lois Kaye Go, wound up 16th in the girls' 8 and under division.

Parañaque five halts skid, raps Warriors

BUENAVISTA, Guimaras—The Parañaque Jets bounced back from three straight losses Saturday by crushing the Iloilo Warriors, 81-73, at the Spring Joy gym here.

Veteran Rolly Basilides scored all of the Jets' points in a 7-1 windup to seal the Warriors' doom.

Francis Sanz, who returned to the Warriors after a stint in the PBL, rallied Iloilo within four, 76-72, with a minute left, but Basilides came to the KSK Food Products-backed Jets' rescue.

"It feels good to win again after that forgettable 0-3 Mindanao trip," said Parañaque coach Enrique "Yong" Garcia later.

Over at the packed Valencia City gym in Bukidnon, Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia Golden Harvest whipped the Bacchus/Harbour Centre-backed Manila cagers, 86-69.

Nat Cruz, a 6-foot-7 slotman, set the tone for the rout as he scored 17 points, including two triples, on 6-for-6 shooting.

Valencia led 44-22 in the second quarter before Allan Gamboa, Harold Sta. Cruz and Bonjay Enrile rallied Bacchus to make it 39-53.

Valencia and Parañaque improved their records to 5-5 and 4-6, respectively.

Action resumes today with the Jets facing Sky-go/Sirlitz-supported Tribu Sugbu at the Minglanilla Sports Center and Manila taking on the Iligan Crusaders at the MSU-IIT gym in Iligan.

The scores:

PARAÑAQUE 81—Basilides 27, Rodriguez 16, Marquez 9, Tolentino 6, Lopez 6, Bognot 6, Gulyab 4, Yambao 3, Balingit 3, Saquilayan 1, Buendia 0, Ruiz 0, Iliano 0.

ILOILO 73—Allado 19, Sanz 18, Cantonjos 10, Leonida 10, Manuel 6, Arcano 5, Poral 4, Balgos 1, Penesa 0, Sencil 0.

Quarters: 22-20, 37-37, 59-52, 81-73

VALENCIA 86—Cruz 17, Navales 12, Madera 10, Nallon 9, Berami 8, Cabil 7, Celiz 6, Adams 5, Cesar 5, Clavel 3, Toring 2, Gragasin 2, Bayron 0, Bagares 0.

MANILA 69—Gamboa 16, Sta. Cruz 14, Epondulan 12, Enrile 11, Rauschmayer 6, Hardin 4, Cordero 4, Chua 2, Pile 0, Hudencial 0, Coyukang 0, Reroma 0.

Quarters: 34-17, 53-39, 63-56, 86-69

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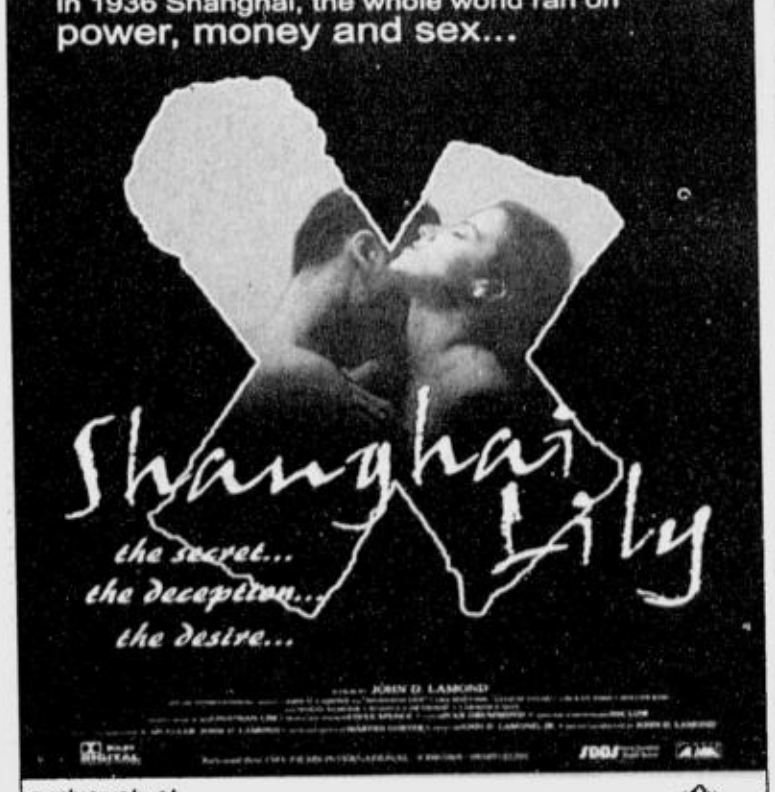

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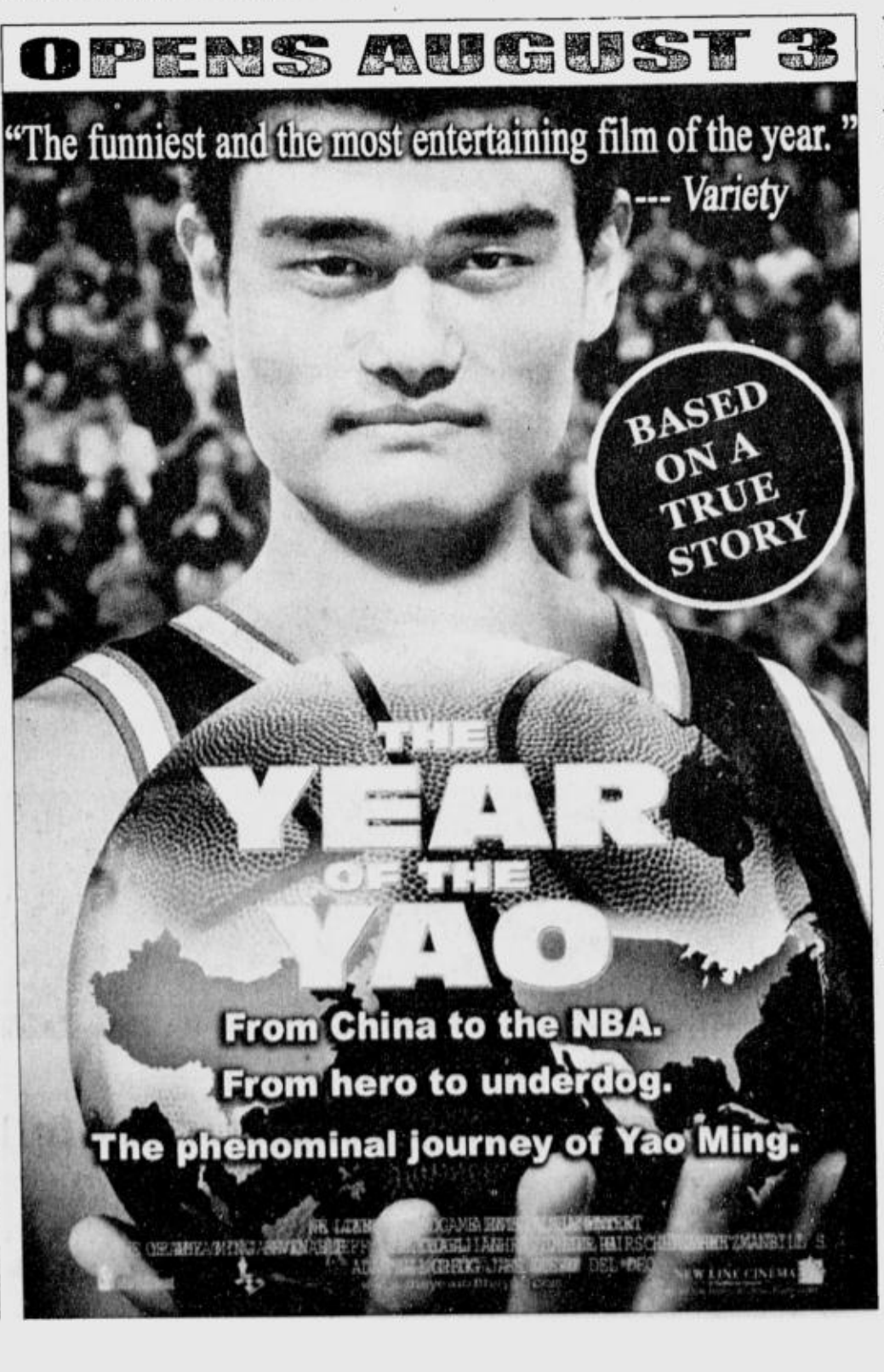


'Hitman' triumphs

DETROIT—Thomas Hearns scored an eighth-round knockout over John Long on Saturday in his first fight after a five-year layoff.

Long, 35, who last fought in June 2004, was game for eight rounds but was unable to answer the bell in the ninth at a half-filled Cobo Arena.

Hearns was ahead 79-72 on all three judges' cards when the referee ended the fight on the recommendation of Long's corner.

Hearns (60-5-1, 47 KOs) scored a knockdown in the fifth round, using a right jab to set up a left cross that sent Long (19-7-1) to his knees. In the sixth, Hearns opened a cut over Long's left eye. *AP*

Annika charges back

Sorenstam books slot in championship flight

SOUTHPORT, England—Jeong Jang leads the Women's British Open by five strokes, and she'll be playing alongside Annika Sorenstam during Sunday's final round.

Jang shot a 3-under 69 Saturday to move to 13-under 203 at Royal Birkdale in the final major of the season. At one point, she led by seven strokes and also missed a birdie at the last.

But Sorenstam, who is chasing her third major of the season and 10th overall, moved closer with a 66 and is tied for second with Cristie Kerr at 8-under 208. The top-ranked Swede believes she still has a chance when she and Jang go out side by side on the tricky links.

"We will see what happens," said Sorenstam, who made three birdies and has gone 41 holes without a bogey since the 13th of the opening round. "There's a lot of golf holes out there left to be played and birdie opportunities. I am very happy with my round today and it was my best golf of the week."

Behind Sorenstam and Kerr are five players at 7-under 209. One of them is Michelle Wie, the 15-year-old amateur who hopes to go back to high school with her first tournament victory.

Wie carded her second 67 in a row and said that would have been better if her putter had been hotter.

"I could have been a lot better but I'm happy with the way my score came out," said Wie, who had six birdies. "I felt really good with my iron shots today. I just couldn't putt."

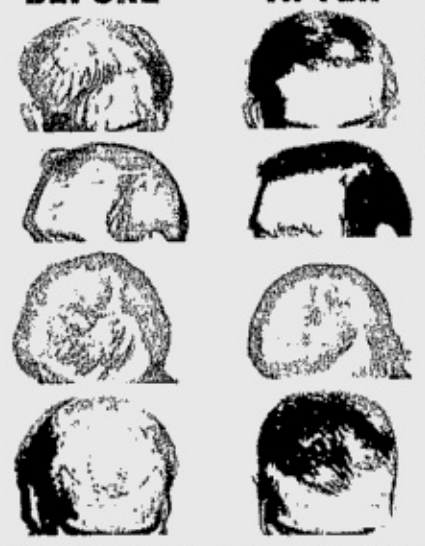
Jang, still seeking her first victory in six seasons on the LPGA Tour, said she won't be nervous playing alongside Sorenstam, who has 74 titles.

"I will think about my golf, not think about Annika." *AP*

Raikkonen slays gremlins, wins Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST—Kimi Raikkonen secured his fourth victory of the season here in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix to re-ignite the title race as current leader Fernando Alonso failed to score. Finn Raikkonen finally escaped the gremlins that have stalled his championship challenge and eased to a comfortable victory but was forced to work hard for his win by determined reigning champion Michael Schumacher. The Ferrari ace led from pole but Raikkonen put him under intense pressure in the middle of the race. The Finn is now 26 points behind Renault driver Alonso with six rounds remaining. Michael Schumacher secured a morale-boosting second place for Ferrari. Ralf Schumacher secured his first podium finish for Toyota, finishing third. *AFP*

BEFORE AFTER



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Vijay paces Buick tilt

MICHIGAN—Vijay Singh tied a course record for lowest front-nine score en route to a nine-under-par 63 and a five-shot lead over Zach Johnson after the third round of the Buick Open.

Paired with Tiger Woods, who wowed the crowds with his 11-under 61 on Friday, Singh showed he had the same sort of golf in him.

He shot a sizzling 29 on the front nine at Warwick Hills, pulling away from the world's top-ranked player with seven birdies.

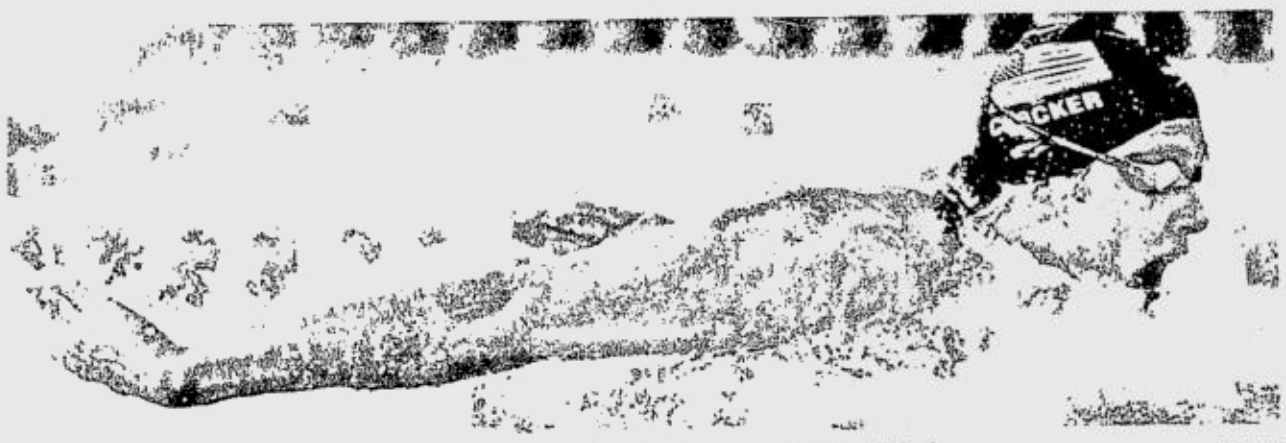
Singh finished at 22-under 194 as he built his lead from one shot over Woods to five over Johnson. He has a shot at the PGA Tour records for lowest scores in relation to par.

It didn't take long to see that Woods' third round would be drastically different from his second.

He started with a par before carding three consecutive bogeys to fall six shots behind Singh. *AFP*

Stadler, Roberts lead Senior US Open

KETTERING, Ohio—Loren Roberts and Craig Stadler each hit a spectacular iron shot—and enough other good shots to share the lead through three rounds of the US Senior Open on Saturday. Roberts holed a sand wedge from 70 yards on the 10th hole for eagle to take control early in the round. Stadler finally caught up with a 7-iron out of a bunker at the closing hole that led to a tying birdie. The co-leaders were three shots clear of the field. Greg Norman, playing in his second Champions Tour event, shot a 69 to stay five shots back. *AP*



IAN CROCKER makes waves with a new world record and a victory over Michael Phelps. REUTERS

Crocker beats Phelps, sets record

MONTREAL—Ian Crocker broke his own world record in the 100-meter butterfly and turned a much-anticipated rematch with Michael Phelps into a rout at the world swimming championships on Saturday.

The two Americans were virtually even off the blocks, but Crocker already had a sizable lead when their heads emerged from the water.

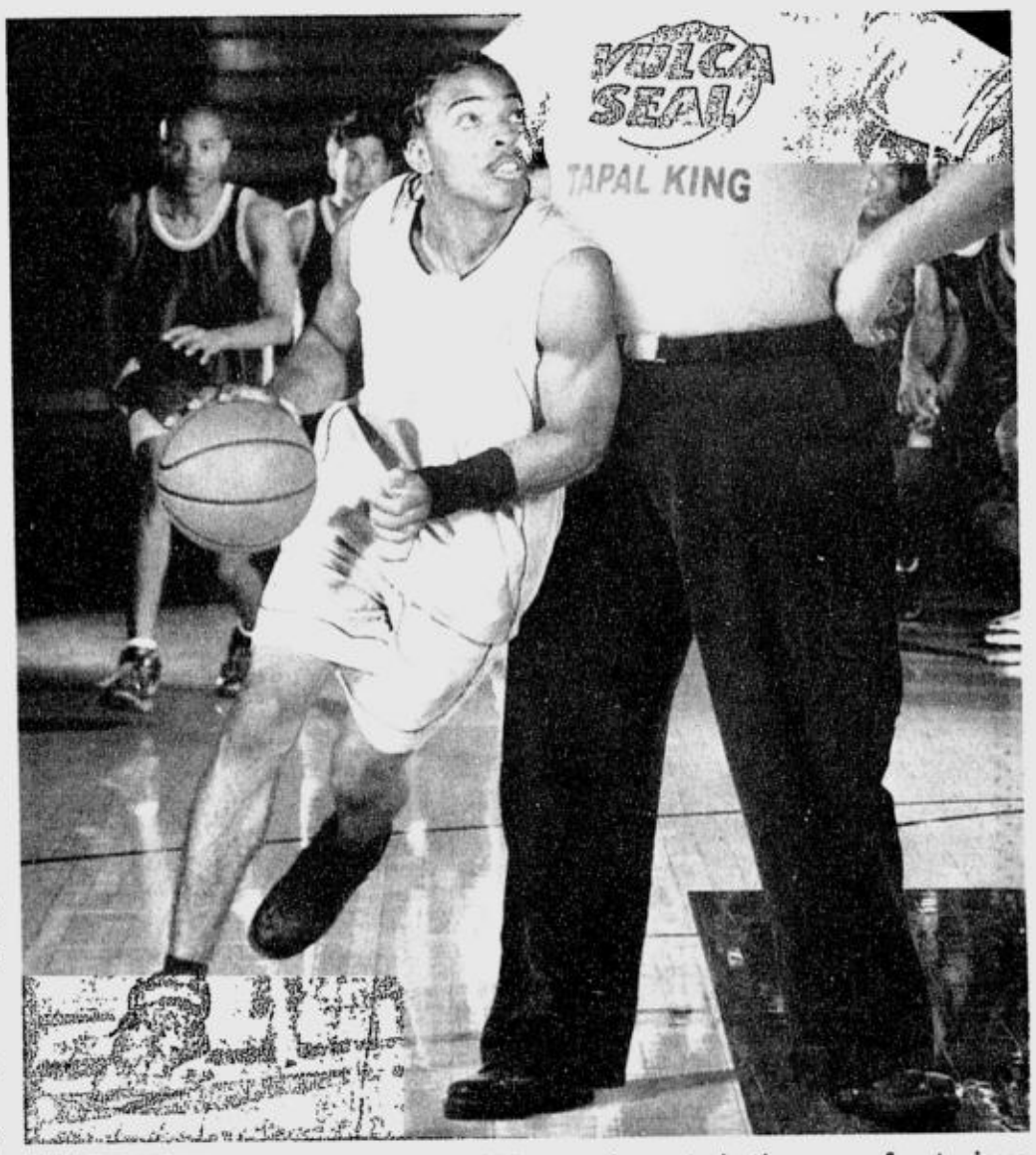
Crocker touched in 50.40 seconds—easily eclipsing the mark of 50.76 that he set in beating Phelps at last year's US Olympic trials.

"When you're racing against Phelps, you always have to assume it's going to take a world record to win," he said.

Phelps took the silver at 51.65. Ukraine's Andriy Serdinov was third.

South Africa's Roland Schoeman won the 50 free in 21.69 for his second gold, and Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry topped the 200 backstroke in 2:8.52.

Kate Ziegler isn't doing so bad, either. The 17-year-old looks like America's next great distance swimmer, winning the 800 freestyle to go along with an earlier victory in the 1,500 free. *AP*



FLAWLESS DEFENSE by Tapal King, as he gets in the way of notorious cager Mar Rumi's attempt at forcing a fastbreak. Sa Super Vulcaseal, walang makakalusot.

SUPER VULCASEAL IS THE NO.1 ELASTOMERIC SEALANT.

RP-San Miguel bows . . .

From page A25

Raymundo was whistled for an offensive foul and nudged the American hard in frustration.

Shifty guard Terrance Johnson scored 29 of his 33 points in the first three periods and the Philippines was only able to move close after Dennis Miranda put the cuffs on the American guard.

The RP Team flies back home at 9:30 a.m. today before taking a short rest and resuming practice to participate in the Sultan's Cup in Brunei.

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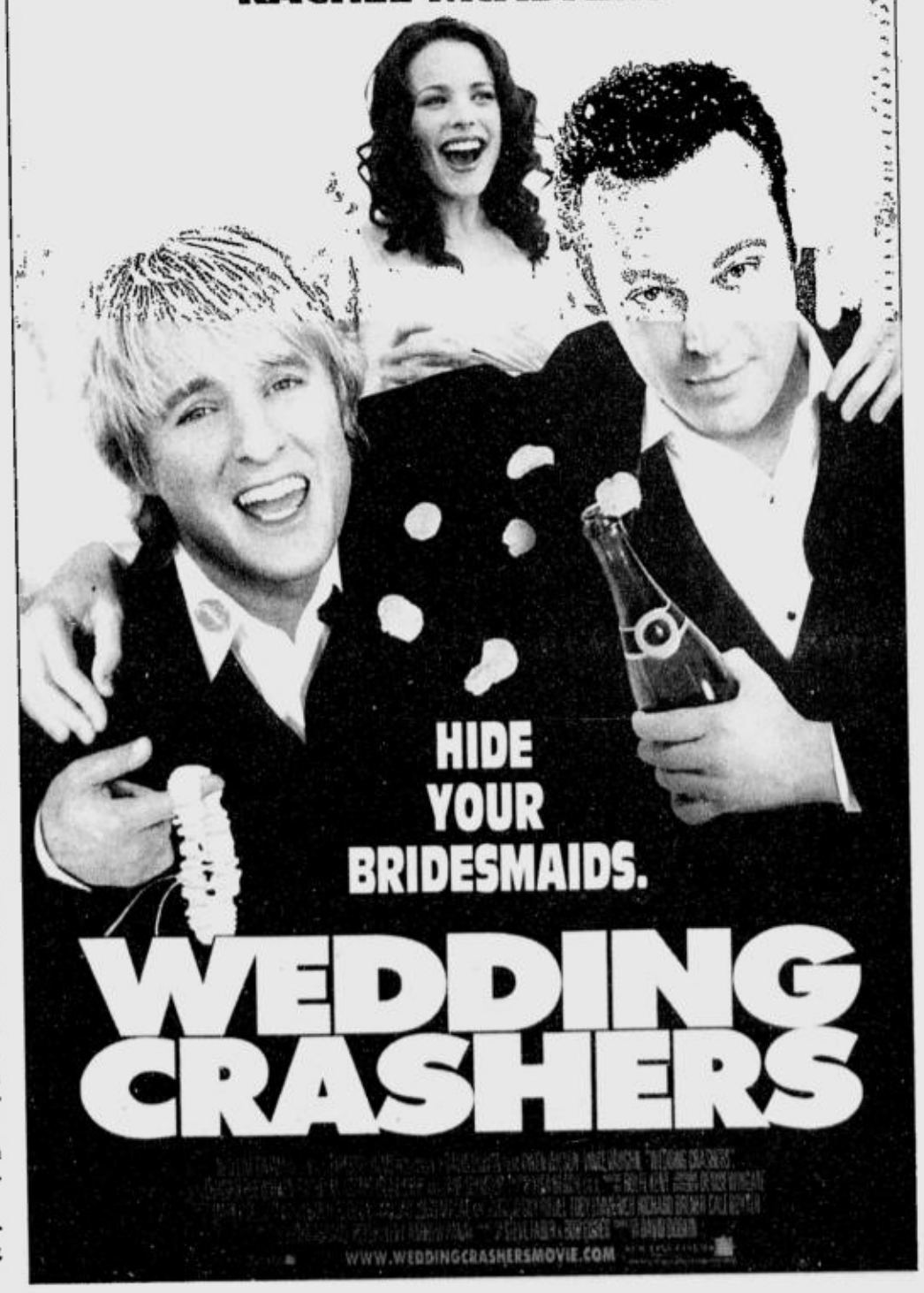

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BAP neglected its duty to develop RP caging

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE WELL-LOVED sport of basketball is dying in this country mainly because the Basketball Association of the Philippines has continuously failed to develop it effectively. Gone were the days when Filipino cagers were equal and, in some cases, better than their European as well as American counterparts. Gone too were the days when we're almost sure our players would bring home medals in international competitions. Now, our national teams are losing even to the Asian nations that we used to beat before.

The only bright note was provided over the weekend by the RP-San Miguel team that did well in this year's Jones Cup in Taipei. However, I was bothered by the information that some officials of the expelled BAP were reported to have made below-the-belt attempts at blocking the application for Fiba recognition of the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation.

The PBF, headed by longtime basketball man Moying Martelino, was admitted by the Philippine Olympic Committee as a legitimate national sports association last July 27 in much the same way the BAP was expelled by a vast majority of NSA members during the POC general assembly. Thirty-three NSAs voted for expulsion, two voted against while one abstained.

Although the expulsion of the BAP did not sit well with some quarters, the POC had no other recourse but to render the harsh decision because the BAP had asked for it. You see, the POC general assembly was offended by BAP officials who showed their disrespect to the Olympic body by reneging on a resolution which they themselves signed, expressing their "full cooperation to the POC" on the formation of a strong, well-trained and competitive team to international competitions. Among the signatories to the BAP resolution were executive vice president Christian Tan, vice president Filomeno Codiñera, secretary general Graham Lim, national coaches commission chair David Zamar and legal counsel Boni Alentajan.

As far as I know, the POC expulsion of the BAP is final.

Said POC chair Robert Aventajado: "The BAP had been disrespectful of the POC decision and, to a certain extent, arrogant in claiming that for as long as they are recognized by their international federation (Fiba), they will continue to decide on basketball matters, including the formation of the national teams to international events."

On the other hand, POC media officer Jose Romasanta said, "BAP officials themselves sought the help of POC president Jose Cojuangco and expressed full cooperation to the POC in the formation of truly competitive national teams to international and regional tournaments."

I also expect rough sailing for the 70-year-old Martelino on his plan to seek Fiba recognition for the PBF. Recall that in the mid-1990s, Martelino sought reelection and won as secretary general of the then ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation), now known as Fiba-Asia, beating arch rival Yeoh Cho Hok of Malaysia. Yeoh, who is now the Fiba-Asia sec-gen, is a known ally of the BAP. Will Yeoh play favorites? Or will he be fair, honest and objective?

Bare Eye

From page A26

booming serve. But inside the ring, his lower limbs could not serve their full purpose as apt launching pads for big punches, the so-called bombs.

* * *

Did he again box sick?

Last time he lost, to Edgar Rodrigo in a title bout at the Makati Coliseum, Gorres was later found to be suffering from infected gums, which had induced on-fight fever.

Well, there has been no established alibi behind the Saturday lullaby in San Andres. But then, why did his handlers allow Gorres to push his punches instead of flick them?

You push or shake someone you wanted to rouse or wake up. You hit, sharply with a cobra-bite snap, the opponent inside the boxing ring.

Instead of a sure spear, Gorres appeared to have wielded a dull, uneven old hammer.

The bigger horror was that he was not connecting his punches properly.

Maybe Gorres felt he was indeed throwing his punches with all might. Truth was that he appeared as though he was kindly knocking at the door whenever he would hit his opponent.

The door to triumph and stardom can be opened only with ripping scientific fierceness.

The Gorres rap on the door on Saturday brought about a native lullaby. He earned P150,000 for it.

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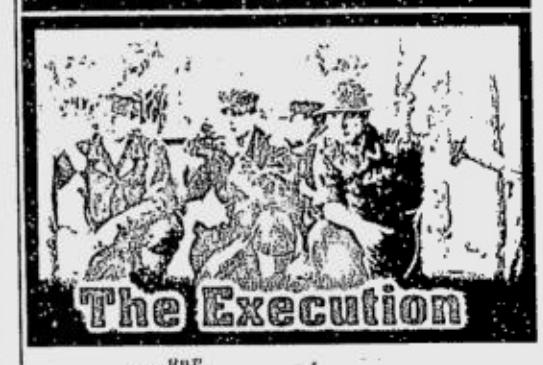
The Planning

The Training

The Execution

April 9, 1942: Luzon Force commander Gen. King surrenders 70,000 American and Filipino troops , the largest army surrender in U.S. history, at Bataan.
April 10, 1942: Japanese Army sets their POWs onto the 65-mile long Bataan Death March. Hundreds of U.S. and Filipinos soldiers will die of starvation, disease and executions.
April, 1942: The POWs are taken to Camp O'Donnell. 1,500 Americans and 15,000 Filipinos die in the first two months of their imprisonment.
June, 1942: POWs are transferred to a camp at Cabanatuan, where hundreds die in the first month of starvation, tropical illness and torture, a pattern that will continue over the next 3 years.
August, 1944: The Japanese War Ministry issues a "Kill All Policy" -- a broad edict calling for the deaths of all remaining POWs under their authority.
October 20, 1944: Gen. MacArthur returns to the Philippines.
December 14, 1944: Palawan : POW camp- 150 American and Pilipino soldiers are summarily executed -- rumors circulate that Cabanatuan will be next.
January 27, 1945: Col. Henry Mucci and his 6th Army Rangers, together with the Filipino resistance fighters led by Capt. Juan Pajota, are ordered to execute the suicide raid on Cabanatuan to save the POW's.
January 27, 1945: Alamo Scouts begin stealth reconnaissance behind enemy lines.
January 30, 1945: The most incredible raid on Cabanatuan begins.
January 31, 1945: The POWs are free. A mission that really couldn't succeed...and yet it did.
CESAR MONTANO BENJAMIN BRATT CONNIE NIELSEN JOSEPH FIENNES JAMES FRANCO
THE GREAT RAID
Based on a True Story
MIRAMAX

NBI men monitor NCAA venues

From page A26

League chair Fr. Victor Calvo of host Letran, noting that there were already "enough reports and observations," said the board turned to the NBI "to help weed out suspected game irregularities."

The agents will be assigned inside and outside the venues starting today.

Banal was tapped to replace Nash Racela last week after the Lions finished in the cellar with a 1-6 record in the first round.

Before Banal debuts with his new team—the PBL mentor handled Far Eastern U in the UAAP before this year—the San Sebastian Stags and the St. Benilde Blazers collide at 1 p.m.

The Dolphins absorbed their first loss against the streaking Letran Knights, 70-64, in overtime last Wednesday.

Although coach Junel Baculi didn't mind that the defending champions failed to sweep the first round, he implored team leaders Robert Sanz and Gabby Espinas to be more assertive after their subpar performances against Letran.

"Cases like this help the team grow," said Baculi. "We just have to regroup and address the immaturity of the team."

The Dolphins and the Stags are going for elimination round sweeps of their current rivals. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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(DOLBY) STEALTH PG13

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4 GOLD (DTS) WEDDING CRASHERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 GOLD (SDDS) STEALTH
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
8 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS
9 (DOLBY) IF ONLY
10 (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW

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UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 August 25, Thursday 8 pm
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Abot Kaya derby today at Roligon

ALL ROADS lead to Roligon Mega Cockpit today as the Abot Kaya 4-Cock Derby, a showdown among prominent cockers, unfolds starting at 2 p.m. today with 108 fights on tap. Hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, the event follows the recent 306-entry Hatawan 6-Cock Derby won by Rep. Manny Andaya (Michael I), Jima 616 (Rey Soberano) and JR Sentenciador (Cherwin). All center bets today will be squared by popular *llamadores* Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. Meanwhile, a cash pot of P600,000 is at stake in the Smalltime Sa Taglugon 3-Cock Derby slated on Aug. 15 and 17 (entry fee is P3,300). For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

150 fights up in Makati 4-cocker

MORE than 150 fights are on tap when the Daytime 4-Cock Derby hosted by promoters Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola unfolds on Wednesday at the Makati Coliseum. Badiola said the derby will start promptly at 12 noon. Entries must be submitted tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The total guaranteed prize is P500,000 for an entry fee of P6,600. The 18th edition of Pahabol Sa Taglugon 4-Cock Derby is slated on Aug. 8 at the same venue, according to promoter Bobbit Ples. Meanwhile, six entries topped the WTJ 3-Cock Derby last July 25—Ninong (Pepito Ngo), Super Pacman (Manny Pacquiao), San Juan Coliseum (Renato Shio), Concrete Breaker (Emil Chua), Spencer (William Co) and Pahamak (Lito Orillaza).

PHILIP MORRIS 100's

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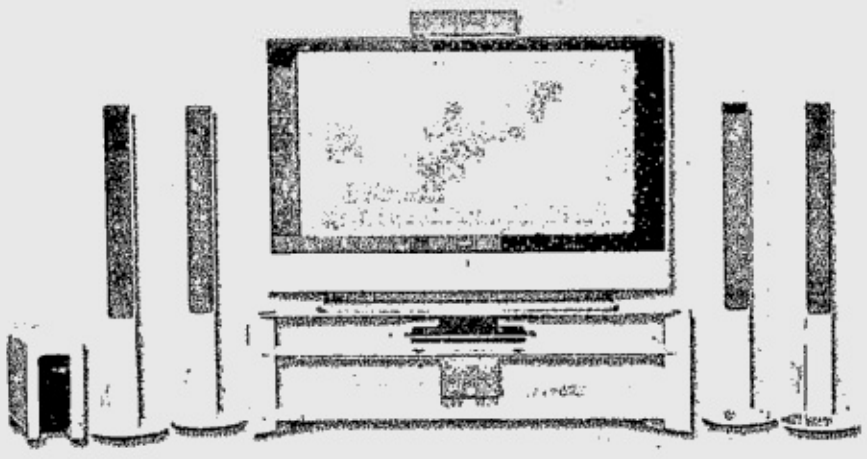

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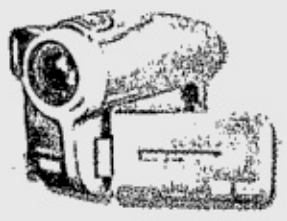
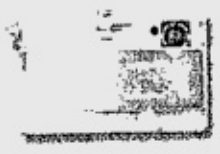


15
SONY ERICSSON
S700i

30
SONY
Cybershot DSC-T7



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• Promotion period is from August 1 to September 25, 2005.

• Only adult smokers 18 years old and above (as of August 1, 2005), who are Philippine residents, and living in Luzon (excluding Bicol) and Visayas can enter the *PHILIP MORRIS 100's* "WIN A COOL CAT" promotion.

• To enter the draw, write down your name, address, age (as of August 1, 2005) and signature at the back of an empty pack of any Philip Morris variant (*Philip Morris 100's* Soft Pack or *Philip Morris 100's* Flip-Top Box).

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• All entries must be received by Philip Morris not later than September 25, 2005. Philip Morris and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, or late entries.

• The draw will be held on October 15, 2005 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. The following prizes will be drawn:

Quantity	Description of Prize
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3	Sony Wega 50" TV (KF-WE50A1) w/ Home Theater Set (DAV-SR4W)
10	Sony Digital Camcorder DCR-DVD803
15	Sony Ericsson S700i mobile phones
30	Sony Cybershot DSC-T7 digital cameras
50	Apple iPod Photo 30GB

• The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than October 31, 2005. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Ad.

• Prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.

• In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from Philip Morris and two (2) original and valid identification documents [Driver's license, Passport, Birth Certificate] and his Tax Identification Number (TIN). The IDs presented (singly or collectively) should show the following information below. If the IDs submitted do not contain these three (3) information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

Full Name
Date of Birth or Age
Signature

• In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to Philip Morris, he must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his identity; and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he is a resident of the said municipality/city.

• In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim his prize for any reason, he can send a proxy on his behalf. The proxy should be able to present the following:

- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 11)
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.
- Original copy of the notification telegram from Philip Morris.

• An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.

• Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.

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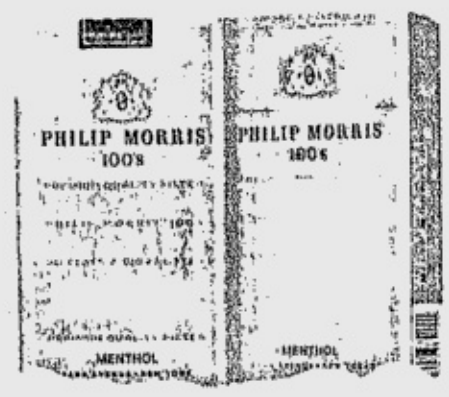

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 STEALTH • THX
1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30

2 THE ISLAND
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

3 MACHINIST
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

4 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20. 7:40 10:00

5 STEALTH
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 IF ONLY
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

9 D' ANOTHERS
12:00 2:05 4:10 6:25 9:40

10 NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 STEALTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 D' ANOTHERS
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:40

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 IF ONLY
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5 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE ISLAND
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 THE MACHINIST
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE ISLAND
12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40

2 SHANGHAI LILY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

4 IF ONLY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:35 5:15 7:55 10:30

7 STEALTH
2:10 5:00 7:50 10:30

8 D' ANOTHERS
1:45 4:10 6:35 9:00

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1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW

1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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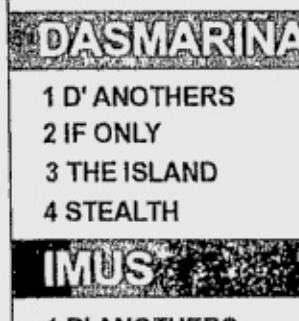
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 D' ANOTHERS



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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 WEDDING CRASHERS	2 STEALTH	3 THX STEALTH 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED / THE MACHINIST	5 FANTASTIC 4	6 D' ANOTHERS	7 THE ISLAND
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 WEDDING CRASHERS 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30		2 STEALTH 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STEALTH 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX WEDDING CRASHERS 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 STEALTH 12:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:45, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 IF ONLY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE ISLAND 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STEALTH		2 WEDDING CRASHERS	
	3 THE ISLAND	4 FANTASTIC 4	5 D' ANOTHERS	
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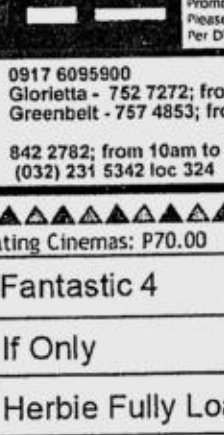

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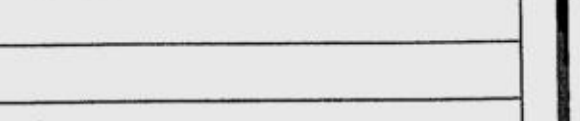


Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-354, Series of 2005

New champs head Davao bets in Milo 42-K finals

DAVAO CITY—Runners from University of Mindanao shone with Angelito Sibayan and Jho-An Banayag of Maragusan, Compostela Valley, emerging as Davao regional elimination champions of the 29th National Milo Marathon yesterday.

Sibayan, a Criminology student, completed the 21-K course that started and ended at the Rizal Park here in 1 hour, 13 minutes and 27 seconds.

The 22-year-old Sibayan, who ran 27 kilometers from the UM campus in Matina to the hills of Eden Nature Park in Toril once a week for a month to prepare for yesterday's race, beat fellow UM runners in improving on his fourth place finish last year.

Reynante Villarma was second in 1:15:23 while defending regional champion Rodel Bustamante settled for third in 1:16:42.

Bustamante, a UM Criminology graduate and now a police officer, said he failed to retain his crown because he was on duty at Camp Catitipan the other night.

Banayag, a UM commerce graduate, also broke through on her third year in the women's 21K, clocking 1:26:48 to beat UM varsity athletes Judelyn Miranda (1:32:08) and Vivian Avergonzado (1:39:38).

Banayag, 23, placed second to Monalisa Ambasa in 2003 and to Stella Mamac-Diaz last year.

Ambasa already topped this year's opening leg in General Santos City while Diaz, who ran in the 21K yesterday as guest entry, is already seeded to the 42K National Finals as the reigning queen of the Milo Marathon.

Sibayan, Villarma and Bustamante and the top three women runners qualified to the National Finals of this foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Manila Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar on Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

SMC-SEN. LIM CUP

Holy Cross, RMC prevail

DAVAO CITY—Magnolia Nutri-Oil-Rizal Memorial College shut down Purefoods Chicken Chunks-University of Mindanao's ace player on the way to a vengeful 61-55 win and the crown in the 1st San Miguel Corp.-Sen. Alfredo S. Lim women's basketball championship at the Almendras Gym here.

Over at the University of Mindanao Gym, Magnolia Nutri-Oil-Holy Cross of Davao overcame an inspired Purefoods Chicken Chunks-UM Cardinals squad to eke out a 25-14, 29-27 victory and clinch the women's volleyball crown.

Holy Cross, which placed second to La Salle in last February's Prisaa meet, lost the first match, 25-21, 17-25, 23-25, but came back strong in the all-or-nothing second clash.

Avenging a 71-73 loss to the same team in the eliminations, the Blue Belles blanked UM ace Charity Basa and then scored key baskets down the stretch through Carolyn Pacana and Jovelyn Temple to give RMC the distinction of winning the initial staging of the tournament sponsored by SMC and held in honor of Senator Lim.

Councilor Pilar Braga, representing Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, awarded the trophies to the champions and runners-up in the two tournaments.

Tams . . .

From page A26

charge in the extra period after the Tigers blew a 21-point halftime lead.

The Tamaraws easily handled the persistent Archers, who threatened for the last time at 50-46 going into the final period.

But RB Mangahas drilled in a triple, RJ Rizada shot back-to-back baskets and Jeff Chan added a lay-up that gave the Tamaraws their biggest lead, 59-46, early in the fourth.

In junior play, the Baby Tamaraws remained on top at 5-1 after drubbing the Bengals, 67-57. The Cubs blasted the winless Bullpups, 82-61.

The senior scores:

First Game

UST 107—Duncil 22, Cortez 16, Pribhdas 14, De Guzman 13, Espiritu 9, Evangelista 8, Allera 8, Crisostomo 7, Ababou 5, Dizon 3, Taylor 2, Cuan 0.

NU 100—Asoro 30, Fernandez 29, Malcontento 13, D. Catamora 9, Jahnke 7, Flor 6, Estolano 4, C. Catamora 2, Tungcul 0, Sanchez 0, Salvado 0, Lingao-Lingao 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 23-20, 56-35, 72-65, 88-88 (reg), 107-100

Second Game

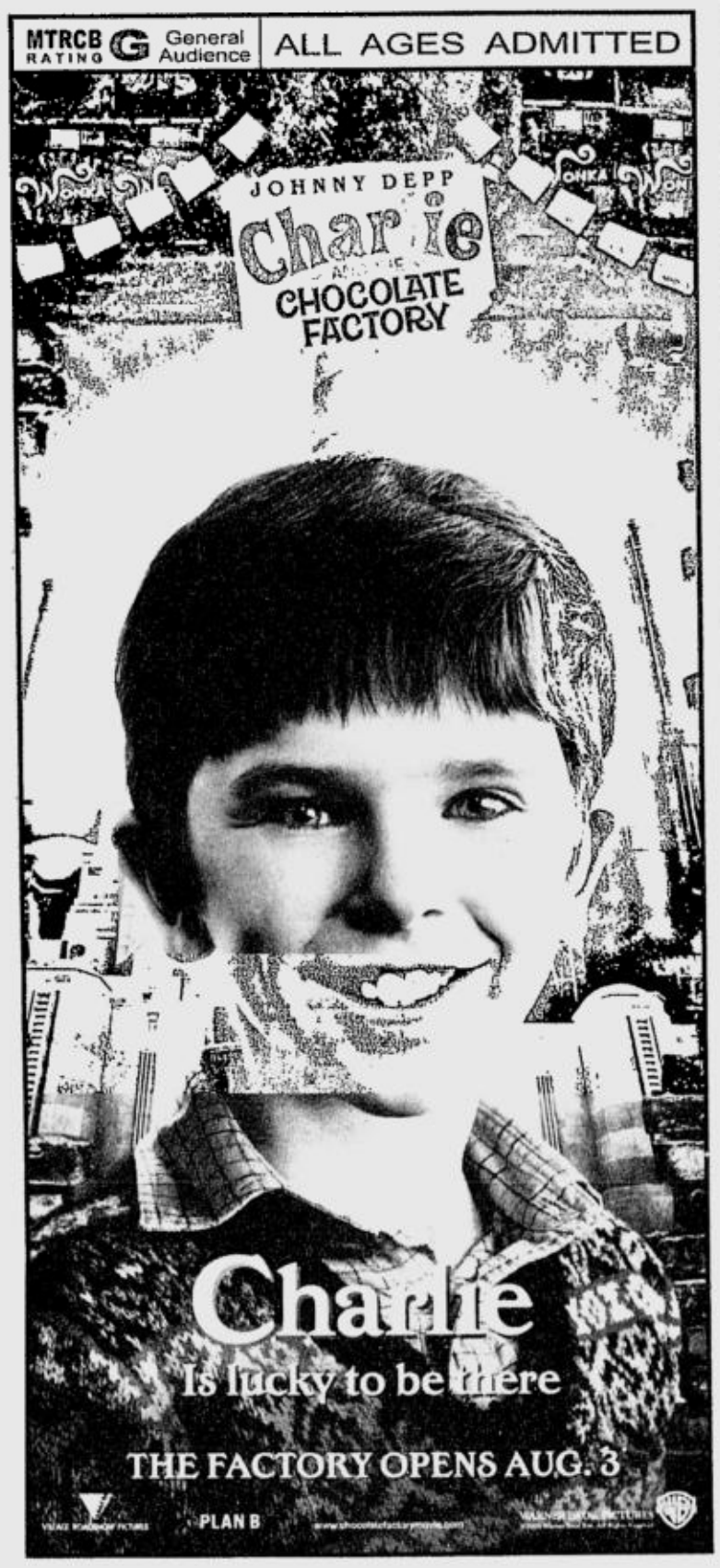
FEU 69—Santos 21, Rizada 12, Isip 10, Villanueva 9, Chan 9, Mangahas 7, Flores 1, Aldua 0, Fernandez 0, Dela Cruz 0.

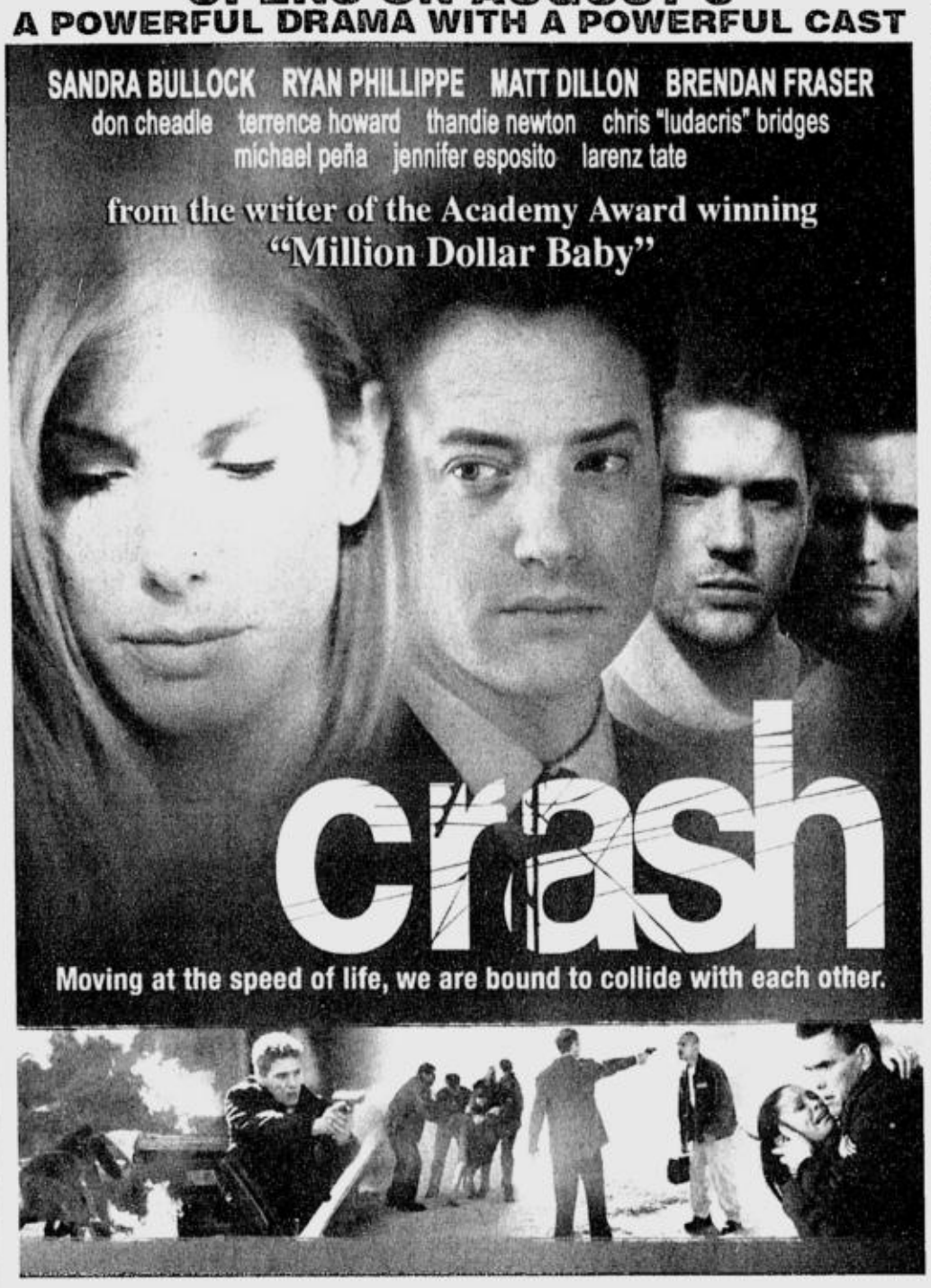
LA SALLE 62—Tang 17, Cabatu 12, Yeo 11, Araña 8, Malerhofer 6, Casio 4, Cua 2, Aquino 2, Villanueva 0.

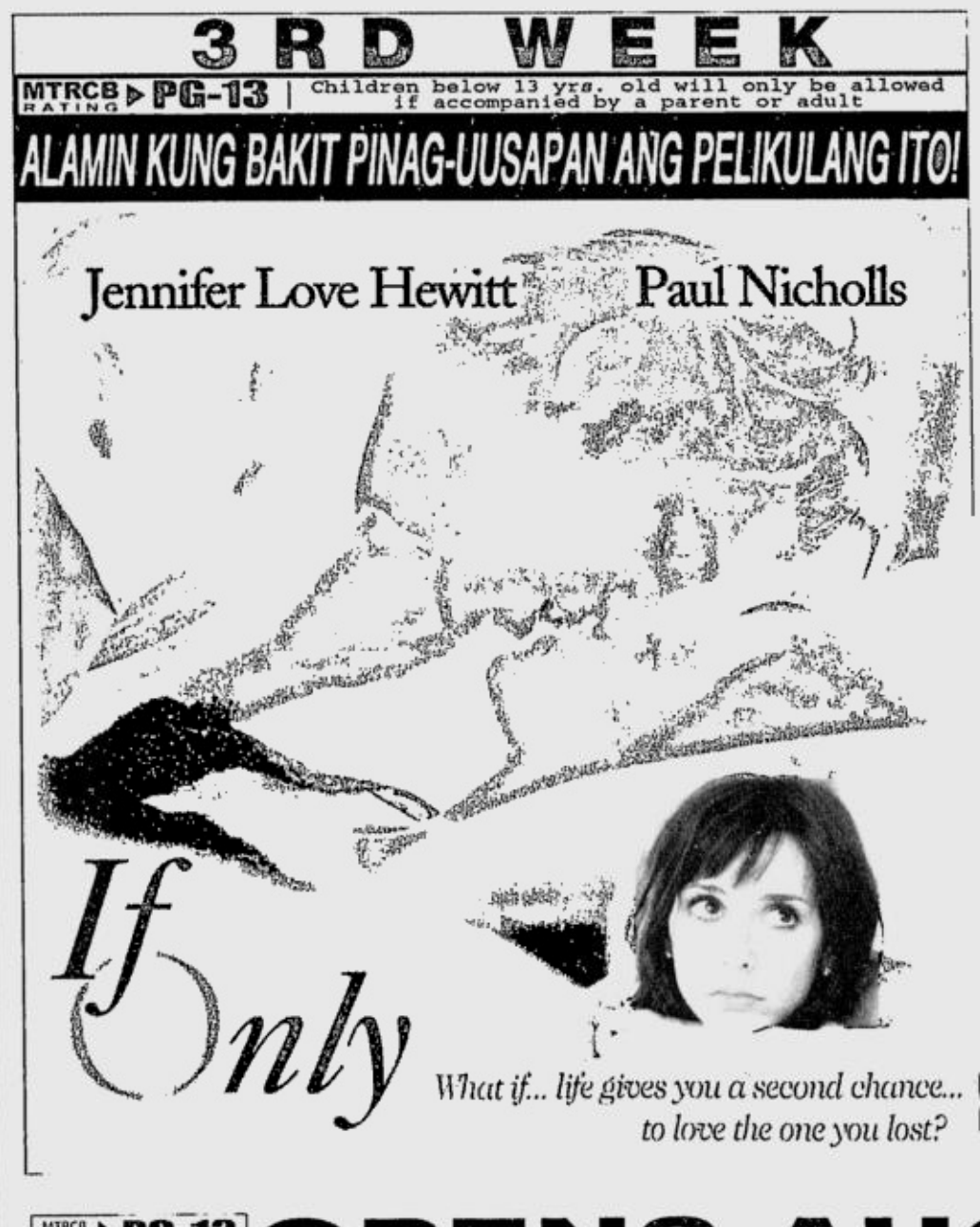
Quarters: 20-15, 39-30, 50-46, 69-62

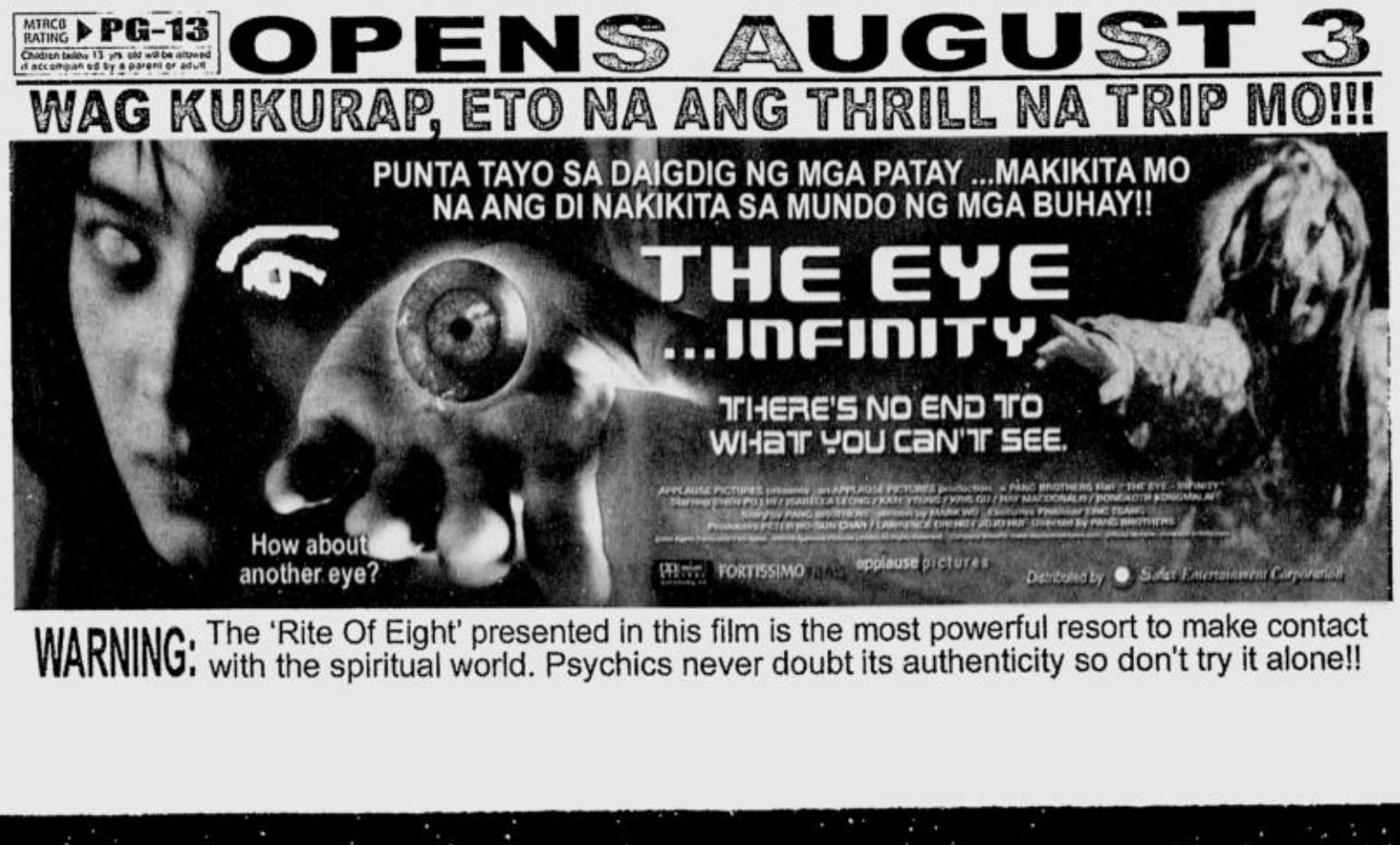
Olivar leads early winners

DIPOLOG—Local bet Algen Olivar ousted Agustin Agnis, 6-2, 6-2, in the boys' 14-under to lead the first-day winners in the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Dipolog Country Club here. Olivar matched the feats of Lowell Canete and Bernardine Siso in the Milo netfest organized by CTW, supported by adidas and sanctioned by the Philta. Canete whipped Reginald Meziona, 6-3, 6-1, while Siso edged Paul Saladaga of Tangub City, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6.









SPORTS

RECORD TIME

Raquel scores, this time on Wild Orchid

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

JULY has proved to be a very good month for star jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr.

Raquel came up with a tactical ride aboard Wild Orchid and powered the filly to a record-ripping win in the fourth leg of the 2005 Imported Stakes Series at the Santa Ana Park yesterday.

Wild Orchid, a 3-year-old charger from Australia, had no trouble galloping through the seldom-tackled 1,800-meter route, clocking a record time of 1 minute, 52.6 seconds.

"Maganda ang umpisa niya, kaya nang pakawalan ko, maraming marami pa (She had a good start, so when I let her loose, she was still full of run)," said Raquel of the High Yield-Dove Orchid progeny who submitted dizzying splits of 13.5-22.5-25-24-27.5.

Raquel calmly sat on Wild Orchid as Trieste and Flying Princess fought for the lead and then vigorously roused his mount, who swept ahead nearing the far turn.

Wild Orchid came home with a five-length margin, erasing the 1:53 record set by Material Maker during the 2003 Philracom Matron Stakes.

"Kinampihan lang tayo siguro ng buwenas this month (Maybe luck was just on my side this month)," added Raquel, after receiving his plaque from newly appointed racing commissioner Marlon Cunanan.

It was the first time Raquel rode the second-favored Wild Orchid, whose victory—worth P270,000—rewarded him with his third major win for the month. He had previously scored on Sound Offer and Speed Advantage in the Chairman's Cup and Director's Cup, respectively.

Last Snip wound up second, then came Desirable, Trieste, Flying Princess and Teetotal. Coupled bets Desirable and Flying Princess were sent away as the slight favorites.

Cunanan was joined in the awards rites by commissioners Eddie Jose and Roger Tandiama.

The fifth leg of the Philracom-backed series is set on Aug. 14, with the streaking Being There heading the six-horse roster.

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Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Comer	Unwrapped	Food 911	Area		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Life Is Great With Brooke Burke		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Fraslar	Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
AXN		Lost		Worst Case Scenario		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	PSI Factor (Season III)		Basstmaster		Razzed Setters		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
JackTV	Street Smarts	Worst Case Scenario		Were Host		WWE Velocity		Chost	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad	
HBO			That Championship Season (3:40 PM)				Cowboy Bebop: The Movie (5:25 PM)				Striking Distance (7:20 PM)			Starship Troopers			Mystic River		
Star Movies	Darkman (2:35 PM)			Comic Book Villains (4:15 PM)			Dry Cycle (5:45 PM)			Picture Perfect (7:15 PM)				Drumline				Underworld	
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel	Daily Mass			Angelus (9:15 PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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ENTERTAINMENT
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
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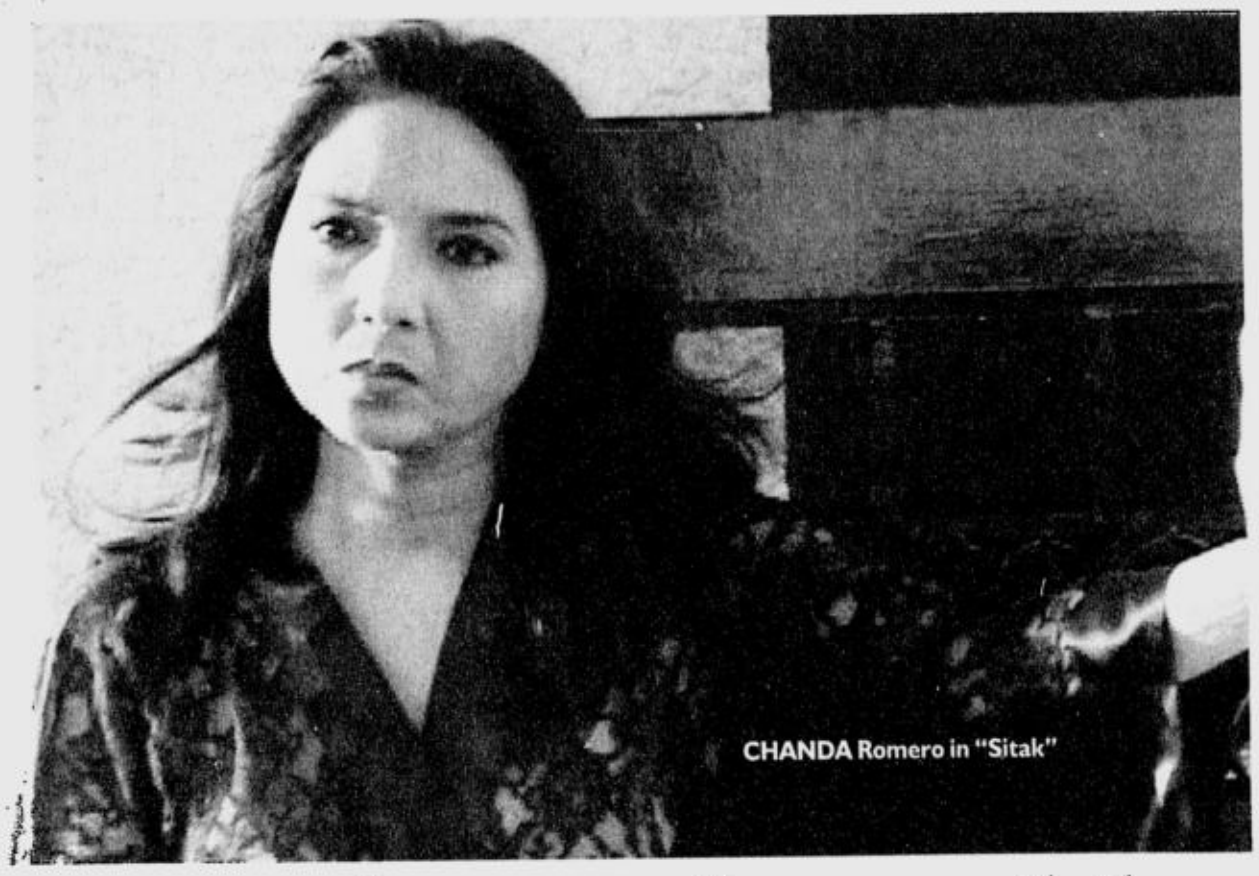

CHANDA Romero in "Sitak"

Digital invades cable

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Cinema One sponsors an indie film festival to come up with more varied content on pay TV

QUICK on the heels of the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, ABS-CBN's Filipino movie channel held the Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival July 29 to 31 at SM Megamall Cinema 12.

Ronald M. Arguelles, director of programming of Creative Programs, Inc., explained candidly that the festival was conceived to help the cable channel solve a daunting problem.

"We have a weekly show, Sunday Cine Premiere, and we need 52 new movies every year to fill that time slot," Arguelles told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Unfortunately, the local movie industry, whose output had dropped from 200 to 30 annually, could fail to meet the requirements, he said. "There are two solutions: One is to acquire titles from elsewhere in Asia and dub them in Tagalog."

That's bereft of creativity, he admitted. "We'd rather produce our own content. We decided to reallocate our budget for buying new titles to the production of new digital movies instead. Actually, I got the idea from [indie filmmaker] Jon Red who told me that for less than a million you could produce a good digital movie."

After the launch last September 2004, the organizers were swamped with "300 story proposals from all over the Philippines," which they eventually narrowed down to the six finalists that received P600,000 grant each.

The final six, Arguelles asserted, tell unique stories, "of varying genres."

Topel Lee's "Dilim" is an action thriller that centers on a nocturnal vigilante. Dennis Marasigan's "Sa North Diversion Road" is based on a 1985 play by Tony Perez and features two actors essaying 10 different characters.

Mark Gary's "Sandalang Bahay" chronicles the emotional homecoming of three sisters grappling with family secrets. Sigfreid Barros Sanchez's "Ang Anak ni Brocka" is a "mockumentary" that tracks down the alleged son of the late great filmmaker.

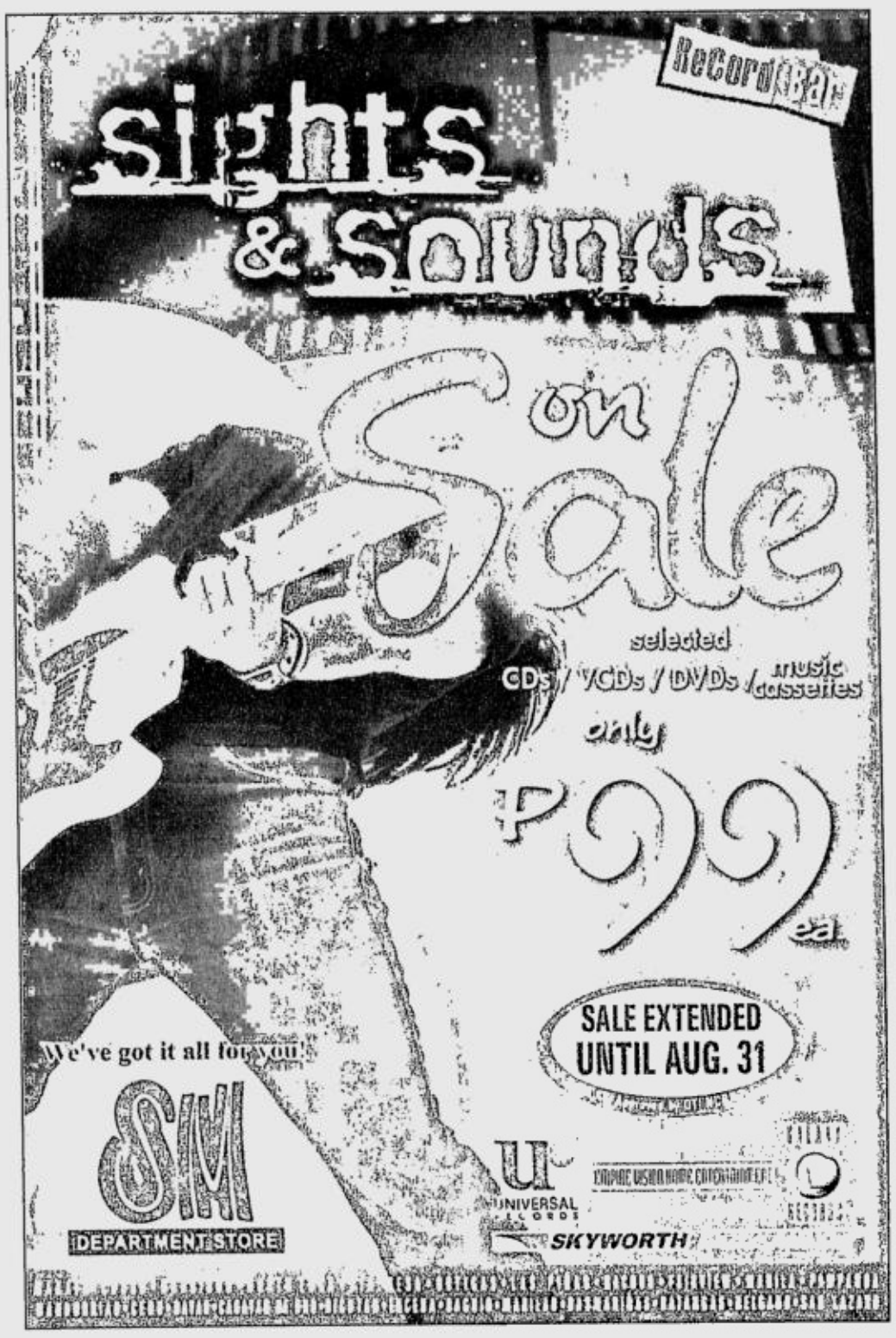
Lisa Cornejo's "Sitak" recounts the story of a laid-off corporate executive who becomes a taxi driver. Jon Red's "Anak ng Tinapa" follows the misadventures of film school geeks who are stalking corrupt cops.

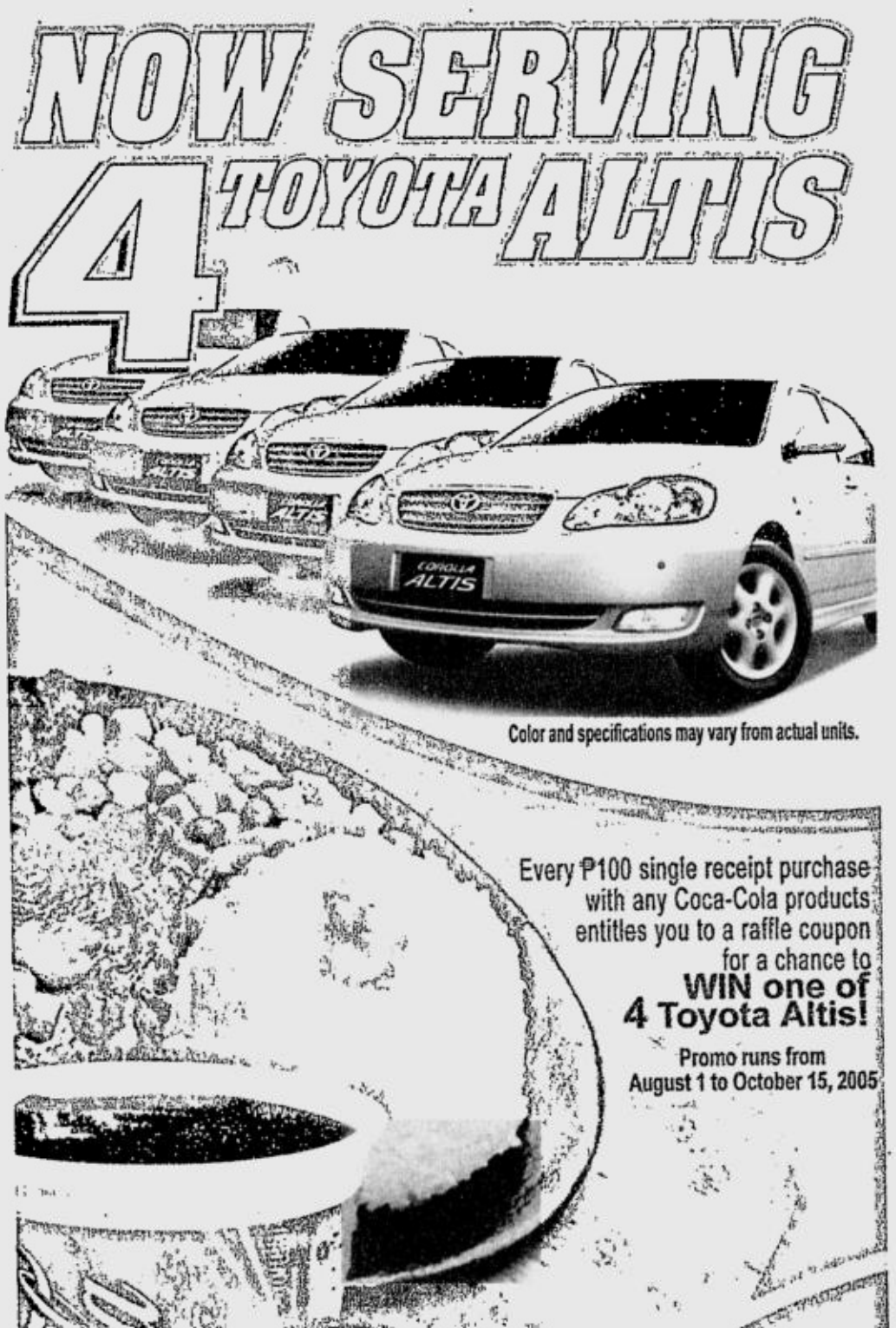
The significance of a digital film festival spearheaded by a mainstream cable company is not lost on Red, a veteran of the indie scene.

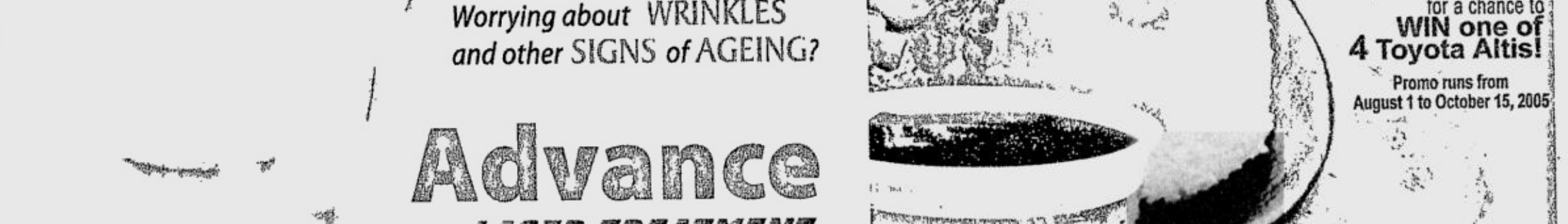
"In the past, my movies were self-financed, produced with the help of friends," Red said. "That's why it makes me happy that there are now companies like Cinema One that are ready to finance digital films. It's as if all our past efforts are now bearing

DIGITAL/ A2-3

ALBERT Martinez in "Sandalang Bahay"







FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: People are attracted to you. You're entertaining, bright and very kind. You also have a lot of good business know-how. You might have several careers during your lifetime. One thing is certain—you like to feel on top of things at home. Expect increased solitude this year in order to learn something important.
Birthdate of: Coolio, actor/rapper; Jerry Garcia, musician; Yves Saint Laurent, fashion designer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Focus on home, family and real estate matters today. Invite family members over. This is an excellent day to buy something for your home or a relative.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20): If shopping today, make sure you buy what you really want. Don't try to please others, or do what you think you should do. Just please yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Get out there and hustle today. You can make a name for yourself. Bosses are impressed with you, and others are ready to lend you support. Yee-haw!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel quite energized today. Because of this, you want to talk to others. Get out and see people! Accept invitations. Chat with neighbors and siblings. (Laugh it up a little.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a lovely day to enjoy the company of friends and groups. The Moon is in your sign today, and you feel emotional but very friendly. It's a good day!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a high-energy day and a nice way to start your week off. Discussions with people from other cultures, countries or different backgrounds might enlighten you about something.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might be called upon to arbitrate or help people make a decision about conflicting values, or how to share something that is jointly held. You will do well at this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): A good friend might help you with an idea that excites you. A little bit of encouragement can go a long way. (Think positive and hope for successful results.)

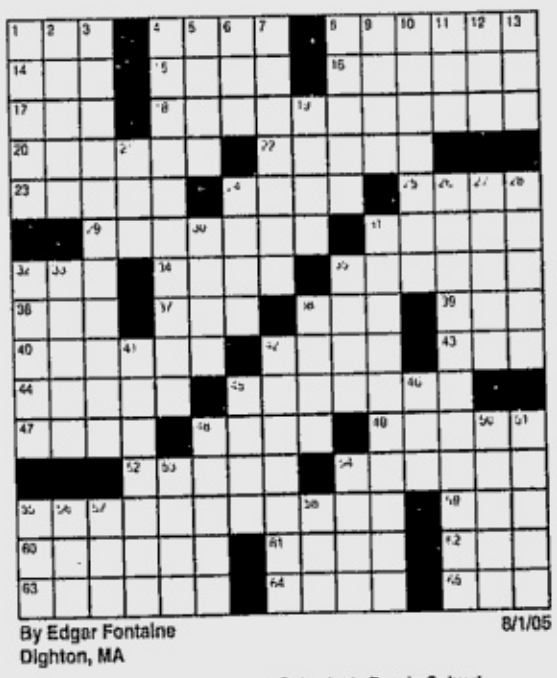
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to start your week. You feel energetic at work. You also feel good about your health. Answers to hidden problems could surface.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel playful and prankish today! Your creative urges are excellent. Everything having to do with sports, the arts, the entertainment world and show business will shine. It's a good day to work with children.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your confidence is strong today. You feel you can clean up messy areas at home and at work. And you're right—you can!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel more like socializing than working today. If you work in a creative field, you can be productive. Athletes also feel very energetic.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

8/1/05

ACROSS
1 Soup tin
4 Hey, over here!
8 Let it ride
14 Carnival city, casually
15 Space starter?
16 Lake near Utica
17 Giant slugger
18 Classic toy
20 Former Reds owner
22 Tijuana mister
23 Glistening
24 Fine spray
25 Bahrain ruler
29 Like some insurance
31 Half a single?
32 Not swallow easily
34 Play divisions
35 Movie dog
36 Hospital wing
37 Kane, for one: abbr.
38 Defense grp.
39 Director Browning
40 Like some wedding cakes
42 Moo juice
43 UFO personnel
44 Waiting for dinner
45 One in charge
47 Cats and dogs
48 Clod busters
49 Tapestry
52 PC images
54 Ambrosia of immortality
55 Department of State
59 Classic Pontiac
60 Shakespearean king
61 First female U.S. attorney general
62 Solo played by Ford
63 Leavening agents
64 Yoked pair
65 Uno e due

DOWN
1 Ticked off
2 Gee follower
3 All gone
4 Ashen
5 Ninth mo.
6 Hindu title of respect
7 Throat pair
8 Tapered end
9 AD part
10 Backslide
11 Illuminated
12 Ruckus
13 Big fat mouth
19 Cozy spot
21 Sean Lennon's mom
24 Mongrel
26 Perfect husband material
27 Bonehead
28 Oboists' needs
30 LSD, to users
31 Very old board game
32 Flashy outfit
33 Fashionable shape
35 Followers of tra
38 Transgressions
41 Gives up
42 Master conductor
45 Like earlier LPs
46 Go wrong
48 Vagrants
50 Fragrant oil
51 Rhone tributary
53 Saclike structure
54 Top-rated
55 Wray of "King Kong"
56 Barcelona bravo
57 Location of Panaji
58 John Ritter's dad

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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8/1/05

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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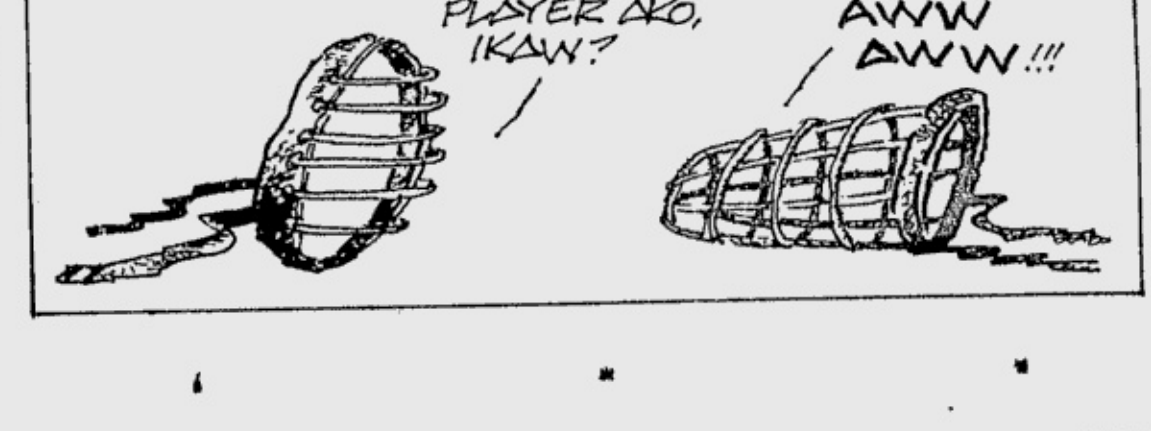
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Global Battle of the Bands kicks off in 24 countries

FOR A SPANISH independent rock band, the Global Battle of the Bands (GBOB) was a stepping-stone to international fame and fortune.

The band, named "Second," finished first in 2004, GBOB's inaugural year, when musicians from 16 countries competed at the London Astoria.

Second brought home the $100,000 grand prize and instantly became one of Spain's hottest new bands.

Early this year, the Spanish arm of EMI, one of the world's largest recording companies, signed the five-member band to a publishing deal for a new single and video released last May, and an eagerly awaited album due out in October. Returning to Madrid, Second was signed for a commercial by Estrella de Levante, a well-known Spanish beer.

This year, a Filipino band will have a shot at international fame and fortune as Manila Broadcasting Co. (MBC) holds the GBOB Philippine leg. This year, the number of participating countries has jumped to 24. The Philippine representative will compete with counterparts from Denmark, England, Finland, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United States, Wales, Canada, Australia, Thailand, Germany and Mexico.

How to join

From August to October, MBC will be holding a series of GBOB weekly, regional and national finals open to both amateurs and professionals. A band must consist of two to 10 members and play only original, unrecorded songs. A complete copy of the rules is available through the GBOB secretariat (832-6109) and the competition website www.gbob.com.

A cash prize of P20,000 awaits weekly winners who will advance to the regional finals. Weekly competitions will kick off in Manila and Cebu on Friday, Aug. 5, and in Davao and Baguio on Aug. 12.

Weekly competitions will be held in Ratsky Malate, Morato and Cebu and other popular live band venues. The weekly eliminations will be shown over RPN Channel 9 as "GBOB," a multi-weekly reality-based drama series beginning Aug. 15, Mondays thru Fridays, 5:30 to 6 p.m.

Ten bands will advance from the regional to the national finals. The top band, which will go all expenses paid to London, England, for the GBOB finals will also win P500,000. Also included in the winner's package are a commercial endorsement deal with Asia Brewery and a recording contract.

Cash prizes of P300,000 and P200,000 await the second and third placers, respectively.

The seven other bands that made as far as the national finals will receive P100,000 each.

Digital invades cable

From page A2-1

fruit."

As usual, budget was a major stumbling block.

"It's true that the budget is inversely proportional to the creative freedom," he cracked. "Unlike mainstream producers, independent filmmakers solve problems with ideas, not money."

Beyond the financial constraints, the bigger challenge for Red is directing material that he himself did not write. "Tinapa" is based on "Fish Crackers," the Palanca-winning screenplay of Ogi Sugatan.

"The first thing we did was to simplify the script, which originally had three points of view," Red said. "That has always been my strategy: Simplify the material. This might be a simple story, but it still consisted of big ideas and experimentations."

Planning

Planning helped another filmmaker overcome the odds. Dennis Marasigan, assistant vice president for marketing of the Cultural Center of the Philippines "devoted a lot of time on pre-production, surrounded himself with a good staff, and hired well-trained actors."

"Prior to the shoot, I went trough the entire script with the actors," he recalled. "So on the set, reminders *na lang*."

Shooting was a test of nerves.

"On our first day, we had seven location changes," he gasped.

Working with tried-and-tested pros somehow alleviated the pressure-cooker conditions on the set (they shot for three days that lasted from 4 a.m. to 4 a.m.).

Digital technology was heavensent, in more ways than one.

"What I love about the digital camera was I could ask my actors to do scenes over and over again and there would be no wastage of film," he noted. "For the highway scenes, I used a two-camera set-up. That would've been expensive on film. Also, a digital tape costs only P150. I could use up 20 tapes, have 20 hours of footage and not go over-budget!"

"Filmmaking is not about technology; it's about accessibility," Red said. "If digital technology will allow you to tell your story, then use it."

"The great thing about festivals like Cinema One and Cinemalaya is that it opened the door for filmmakers with scripts that will never get produced in the mainstream," Marasigan acknowledged.

Optimistic

"It makes me optimistic," Red agreed. "Some actors are worried about the low budget. But this is just the start. We should all be thankful that, at least, digital films are keeping us busy."

"Eventually the indie scene will grow and talent fees will improve," Marasigan and Red chorused.

"We look at digital films as a source of new content," Arguelles concluded. "We are excited about it. After screenings in UP and the Cinemanila, we'll air these movies on Cinema One. These films will allow us to capture markets beyond our usual cable audience. This festival is our contribution to the quest to strengthen the local movie industry."

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2 WEDDING CRASHERS 12:30FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20 08:15LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END
cebu (032) 231-3876
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2 THE ISLAND 11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 STEALTH 11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 STEALTH
5 THE ISLAND
6 THE MACHINIST
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 NEW POLICE STORY
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 THE ISLAND
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 STEALTH
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 WAR OF THE WORLDS
10 IF ONLY
11 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12 EVIL DEAD
SM NORTH EDSA
1 STEALTH
2 IF ONLY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 MAN OF THE HOUSE
7 THE ISLAND
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MACHINIST
2 THE ISLAND
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 STEALTH
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 EVIL DEAD
12 D' ANOTHERS
SM CITY STA MESA
1 STEALTH
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 ICE PRINCESS
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 NEW POLICE STORY
10 THE MACHINIST
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
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4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 IF ONLY
9 THE ISLAND
10 D' ANOTHERS
SM SAN LAZARO
1 STEALTH
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 THE ISLAND
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 IF ONLY
6 D'ANOTHERS
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
4 THE ISLAND
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND
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VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
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6 THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 HOTEL RWANDA
SM CITY DAVAO
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 D'ANOTHERS
4 CREEP
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 THE ISLAND
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Stuck together for 4th season

NEW YORK—Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie are stuck together for another season of "The Simple Life"—even if they're not speaking to each other.

Fox has announced that the network has picked up the options on the contracts for both of the girls for the fourth season of the reality show. Aside from the rift between the two, Fox sees other fodder for on-screen sparks.

"Both Paris and Nicole are about to be married... there's got to be something..." said Fox Entertainment president Peter Liguori.

In April, Hilton issued a terse statement saying, "Nicole and I are no longer friends. [She] knows what she did, and that's all I'm ever going to say about it."

Richie, 23, daughter of singer Lionel Richie, became engaged to club DJ Adam Goldstein in February. Hilton, 24, followed suit in May with Greek shipping heir Paris Latsi.

An air date for "The Simple Life 4" has not yet been set. *AP*

Cinemalaya 2006 coming up

FIRST, the good news: last month's Cinemalaya's Independent Film Festival was so successful that the next one will be held not two years from now, as originally planned, but in 2006!

Kudos to Tonyboy Cojuangco for appreciating the value and effectivity of the new indie competition, and for quickly coming up with the seed money for the next filmfest's new batch of full-length film by the first-time directors.

More good news: aside from this year's 20-minute and full-length categories, a new one may be launched next year, inviting mainstream directors to come up with budget, digital versions of the films they really want to make (without having to submit to producers' requirements).

Hopefully, established directors will submit fresher, freer and more risk-taking films that would generate even greater excitement on the local movie scene than the 2005 competition has already effected.

Finally, we hear that some of the 2005 Cinemalaya movies may be distributed on the mainstream theater circuit by some established film companies.

This is a welcome development, because it will help the Cinemalaya productions to make the key transition to mainstream scenes, and thus multiply their beneficial effects on the movie industry and its mass audience.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

What about the bad news? Well, nothing all that major, but we do detect the tendency of certain sectors of the movie industry to belittle what the Cinemalaya films have achieved.

We wish this attitude would change. Whether they like it or not, the festival has been praised and enthusiastically patronized by the new indie audience, especially the student crowd, so it would be better if mainstream people went beyond raising their eyebrows or pretending that Cinemalaya never happened.

Instead, they should try to understand what made it succeed, what this portends for the future of Filipino movies, and what mainstream filmmakers should do in the light of this new reality.

Yes, Cinemalaya 2005 reached only a small amount of the mass film audience. But its success could grow, and eventually challenge mainstream people's turf. So they should try to appreciate the festival's positive points and take their cue from them, before they are shunted off to the sidelines.

New series

Cartoon Network launches a new series, "Pet Alien," Mondays at 6 p.m. starting today. Meet Tommy Cadle and his alien friend Dinko. Together with other alien chums, they look for fun, adventure and the world's tastiest toast!

Starting Friday, Aug. 5, at 9 p.m., the network telecasts all-new episodes of "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy." Groove to the strange adventures of Billy, Mandy and their best friend, Grim Reaper, in Endsville and the afterlife.

Feedback

From Marge Tajeda, organizer of "The Ilocano in the Global Community: A Centennial Tribute:" "Our tribute will honor Ilocano OFWs in various fields and from different countries this December. We seek your support by including our call to our movie, TV and recording stars to support this worthy cause, which honors our modern-day heroes." Volunteers may call 0919-5325392 or email bituen_adscoms@yahoo.com.hk.

Arturo Luz sculptures

National Artist for visual arts Arturo Luz will exhibit his sculptures from Aug. 2 to 31 at Ayala Museum, Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati City. The exhibit is the first of the museum's annual Director's Choice series. Call 757-7117 local 31.

'Wife Swap 2'

Every Friday at 10:35 p.m. beginning Aug. 5, the Hallmark Channel airs the popular reality show, "Wife Swap 2." The show's first season won the best factual series award from the UK Broadcasting Press Guild, and the Golden Rose for best reality program at the Rose D'or Television Festival in Switzerland.

It shows what happens when two American families swap lives. The new season's episodes include the Boone and the Gillerpie exchange, with a fundamental, one Christian family switching with a liberal lesbian couple; the Cedarquists who live in a treehouse in Vermont swapping with Oeths, who run their family as they would a business; and the male-dominated household of the Harrises trading places with the female-run home of the Youngs.

Special episodes: "Husband Swap" has tattoed biker Kenny Davis switching with the middle-class liberal environmentalist Zen Paiss.

And "Boss Swap" shows what happens when nurturing, laid-back CEO of an all-female promotional merchandise firm swaps companies and management styles with the tough-talking boss of an all-male car dealership.

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5. A participant can only win once per draw. If a person wins more than once per draw, they get the higher valued prize.
6. There will be three monthly draws. The first draw will be held on September 20, 2005, Tuesday. The second draw will be held on October 20, 2005, Thursday. The third draw will be held on November 25, 2005, Friday. Draws will be held at LOTTE Compound, C. Raymundo Ave., Bgy. Maybunga, Pasig City in the presence of a BFAD representative.
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9. When claiming their prizes, winners should bring with them 2 valid IDs with their photo and signature (which will be compared to the signature on their entry).
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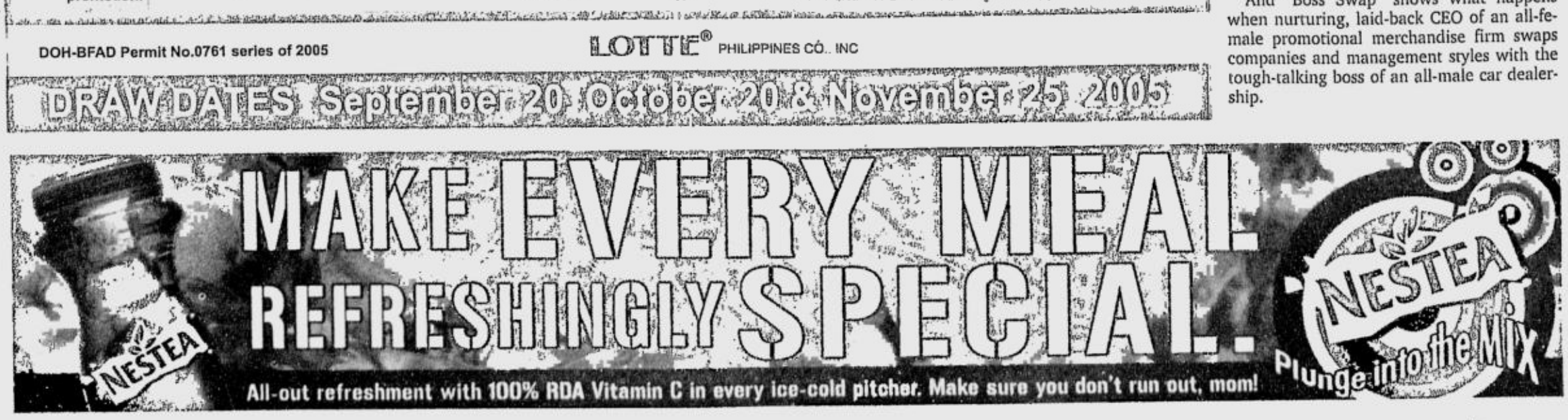

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B1

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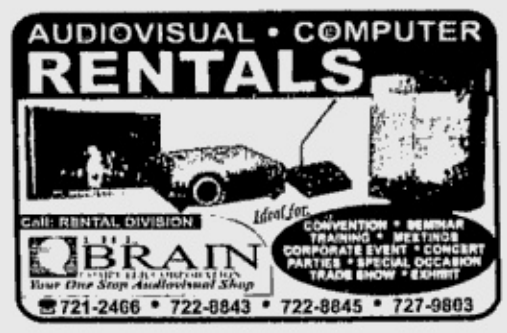
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Drive vs tax evaders starts to weaken

'Operation RATE' losing 'fear factor'

By Daxim L. Lucas and Michelle V. Remo

(First of three parts)

NO ONE has ever gone to jail for evading taxes in the Philippines.

In fact, only one person has been convicted of tax evasion in the 102-year history of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), according to BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares.

"We had one, but the case was small and nobody paid attention to it," Henares said. "The person never went to jail because he was already old, or somebody [filed an] appeal. That [conviction] is an oddity."

In a government agency that has become infamous for abetting tax evasion, their only victory in a criminal court has become an urban legend—everyone at the BIR has heard of it, but no one can remember specific details of the case or even when it happened.

Reformists at the Department of Finance and the BIR have diagnosed the country's problem as a "culture of tax evasion."

"Filipinos just don't take seriously their responsibility of paying taxes," Henares said. "Consumers do not habitually ask for receipts, while business establishments ... do not issue receipts unless asked by their customers."

SPECIAL REPORT

A recent study of the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) substantiates the gravity of the tax evasion problem.

The study revealed that from 1998 to 2002, the government lost an average of P85.4 billion a year due to uncollected taxes.

Of the P85.4 billion in average annual "tax gap," P26.7 billion was due to unpaid income taxes of professionals and self-employed individuals.

DRIVE/ B9

Estimate of Tax Leakages

Tax Type	Average (est.)
VAT	P69.91 billion
Corporate Income Tax	P39.94 billion
Personal Income Tax	P84.91 billion
Excise Tax	P2.563 billion
Documentary Stamp Tax	P5.3 billion
Interest Witholding Tax/Interest on Bank Deposits	P6.05 billion
Fringe Benefits Tax	P1.83 billion
Gross Receipts Tax	P1.5 billion
Insurance Taxes	P370 million
Total Estimated Leakage	**P157.12 billion**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Paquito, Prudential and payback time

COCKTALES /B3

BIR may ease program for tax delinquents /B14

Sy keen on bigger stake in SMC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GROUP of mall tycoon Henry Sy is interested in raising its investments in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. even by another board seat, SM Investments Corp. vice chair Henry Sy Jr. told the INQUIRER.

However, Sy noted that SMIC would only be keen on acquiring a big block of SMC shares that was available in the market.

Class "A" shares of San Miguel hit a 52-week high of P70 last Friday. Class "B" shares were also up at P100 from a 52-week low of P68.50.

Stock market sources said there had been some observed accumulation of SMC shares in the past weeks, but Sy said their group did not make any recent purchases from the market.

SMIC has a 6.5-percent stake in San Miguel. SMIC earlier raised P1 billion to buy additional shares in San Miguel through a stock rights offer.

San Miguel raised an additional capital worth P17.8 billion through the offering of additional shares to help fund its takeover of Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd.

SMIC, for its part, said it was setting aside P16 billion in the next two years for its retail and banking subsidiaries.

This year alone, SMIC is earmarking P8 billion in capital expenditures, of which P5 billion will go to mall expansion and P3 billion for retail and banking operations.

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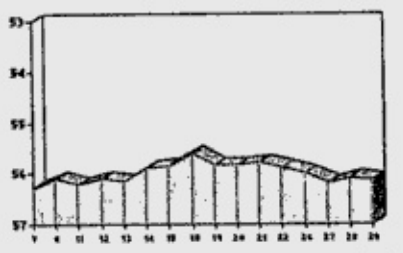

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STOCK MARKET

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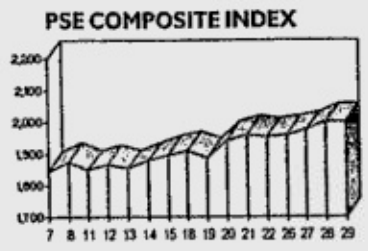

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Market awaits high court decision

SHARE prices are expected to track the high tribunal's next move on whether or not it would lift a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law, a key reform to plug the country's gaping budget deficit.

Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia.Com said the market was betting the Supreme Court would eventually accede to the VAT's implementation, given the greater macroeconomic consequences of another credit rating downgrade from international agencies.

"Unless factors come up that might go against this view, the market should resume its climb, driven mostly by liquidity that's benefiting emerging markets as a whole," she said.

Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said the market's performance last week had been boosted largely by second-quarter earnings that were better than expected.

MARKET/ B4

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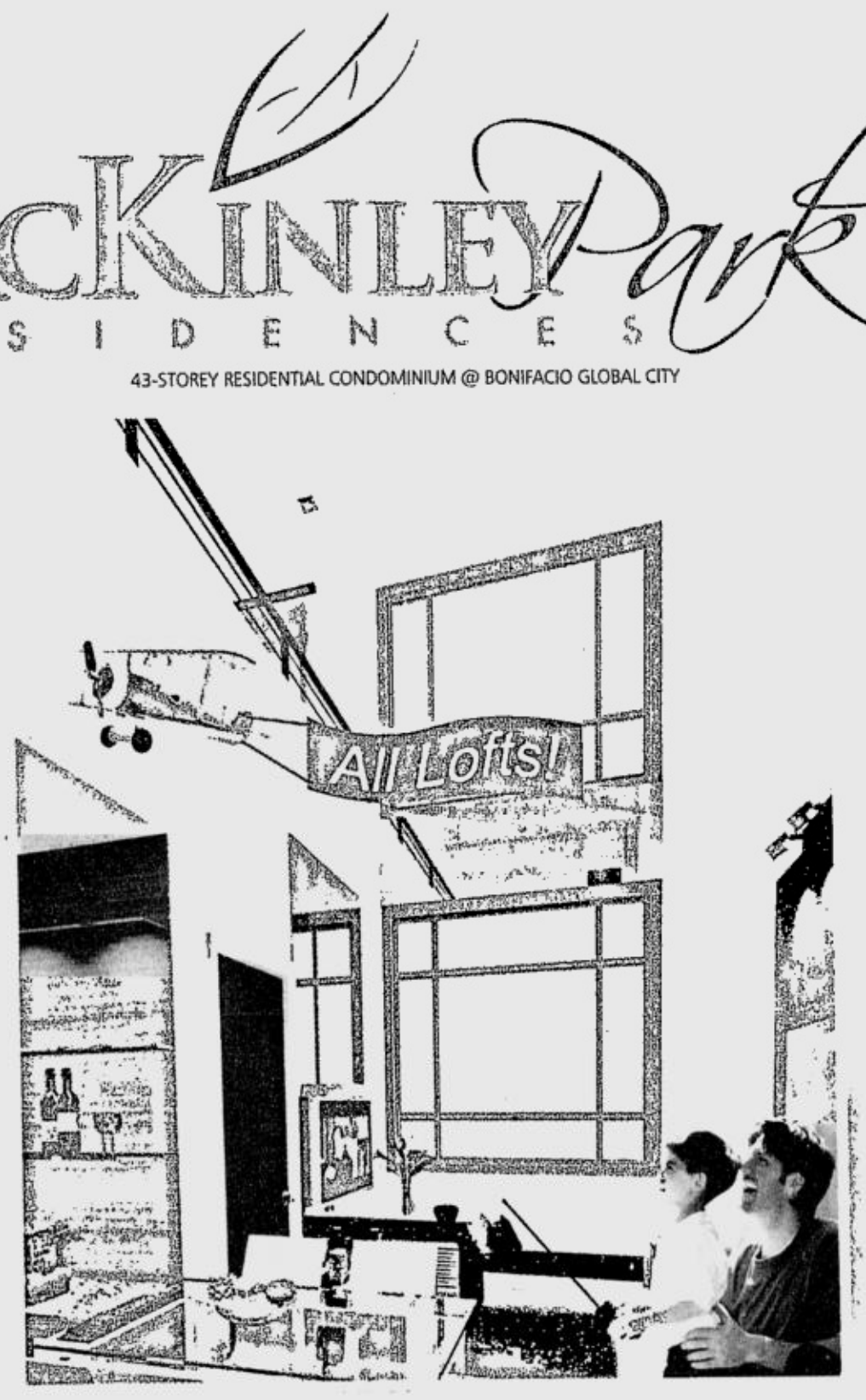

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BIR exec favors lifting of ban on sale of TCCs

By Michelle V. Remo

BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag said he would consider lifting the rule barring certain firms to sell their tax credit certificates as he questioned the prudence of prohibiting the sale of TCCs.

In an interview with reporters, Buñag said he would push for amendments to certain provisions of the Expanded Value-Added Tax law and its implementing rules and regulations, particularly those on tax credits.

Buñag made the statement as he echoed comments raised by some members of the business sector that prohibiting the sale of TCCs or other forms of limiting the exercise of enjoying tax credits were tampering on taxpayers' rights.

The VAT law was temporarily suspended by the Supreme Court on petitions filed by critics, including opposition lawmakers, but economic officials expressed confidence that the temporary restraining order would be lifted this month.

Under the IRR of the VAT, a provision states that companies that are considered zero-VAT rated are not entitled to sell their TCCs. They are only allowed to use the TCCs as deductions in their tax liabilities.

Zero-VAT rated firms are those that are exempted from paying the VAT, but at the same time given the privilege of claiming tax credits from the input VAT they shouldered when purchasing goods or services whose costs include the 10-percent VAT.

Poised for economic takeoff?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

SINCE last week's State of the Nation Address (Sona), a lot of people have been asking me the same question: Is our economy really on the verge of a takeoff, as declared by the President? The main message of the Sona was that amending the Constitution is both imperative and urgent because it will fix our chaotic politics, which is the main hindrance to this economic takeoff.

I hate to come across as a griping pessimist, as I've always recognized the value of projecting optimism and promoting greater confidence in the economic outlook. That used to be my job in government, after all. In the economy, positive perceptions and expectations tend to be self-fulfilling, as such expectations could stimulate greater investments and economic activity. But painting a positive economic picture and turning it into constructive public expectations require that the description be widely credible in the first place.

Faulty Sona premises

Unfortunately, the main message of the Sona falls apart on two faulty premises. First, characterizing the economy as being on the verge of a takeoff is hard for most to swallow. Coming from the President, it also sounds like a feeble attempt to claim false credit for a false outcome. What I hear her trying to tell us is that thanks to her leadership, the economy is really on an improving trend, and if not for the "noises" from political detractors, we could have "taken off" by now.

The second faulty premise is that amending the Constitution to change our government structure will fix our political problems, and in her words, "the sooner, the better." Thus, contrary to her previous stand on the matter, she now endorses the idea of Congress, as a Constituent Assembly (ConAss), undertaking swift Charter change by themselves. Speed has suddenly become more important than wider public participation—a very dangerous proposition, to my mind. We are in a political crisis that stems from what appear to be serious violations of the Constitution, and the solution being proposed is to change that Constitution! It all sounds like a bad joke, like the one that says if your doctor diagnoses you to have a serious illness, the solution is to change your doctor.

Wrong direction

Experience tells me, and surveys affirm, that there are three main things that the general public cares about in judging how well the economy is doing: prices, jobs and incomes, in that order. Thus, the statistics of greatest significance and public interest are the inflation rate, the employment/unemployment rate, and growth in national income as measured by gross domestic product (GDP). So have we been on an improving trend indeed?

Average inflation rate in 2002 and 2003 was 3.1 percent. Last year it averaged 5.5 percent. This year, average inflation rate so far is 8.3 percent. It is taking off all right, but in the wrong direction!

Unemployment rate in January 2003 was 10.6 percent. In January 2004, it was up to 11.0 percent. And in January 2005, it was up further to 11.3 percent. Again, the number has been on the rise, but it's a number that must go down, not up, for things to get better.

As for GDP, there's a tendency to gloat over the 6.1 percent growth posted last year. But there's also a tendency to gloss over the fact that (1) such growth did not have widespread benefits (I describe it as a narrow, shallow and hollow growth), and (2) growth has been slowing down. Closer examination of the data reveals that over the last four quarters, GDP growth has been progressively declining from 6.4 to 4.6 percent, while GNP growth progressively dropped from 7.3 to 4.7 percent. Neda now admits that the economy will not be able to match last year's growth rate. Key to this is that investments this year are not only slower; they are actually much lower (-4.1 percent) than last year. And this was already the case even before the current political crisis even broke out.

Can we say with conviction, then, that we're on the verge of an economic takeoff if all the vital graphs are moving in the wrong direction? No wonder that the statement has met with wide disbelief, just like the declaration that the fiscal crisis was over, only weeks after it was publicly acknowledged.

The people, not the system

An administration supporter recently made a rather audacious claim over national television. He argued that even if our leader were the Pope himself, our country would still be a mess if the present government structure remains unchanged. I don't think he will find very many people agreeing with him on this. The reverse argument is much more compelling. That is, no matter what government system we adopt, we will never get out of the

NO FREE/ B4

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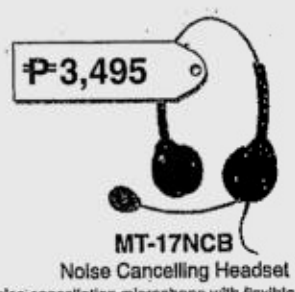

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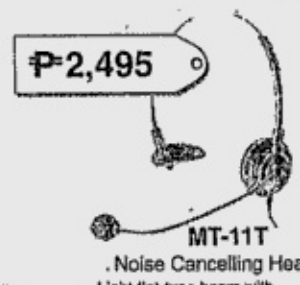

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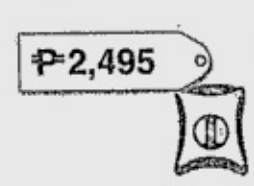

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NMC Container Lines now ISO-certified nationwide

NMCCLI Vessels certified to ISPS Code

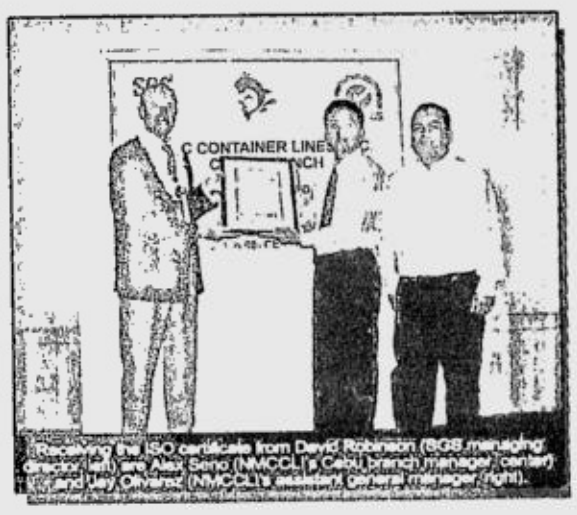
NMC Container Lines Inc. (NMCCLI) recently completed the certification of all its branches to the ISO 9001:2000 standard, assuring its customers with standards of quality that are recognized and respected throughout the world. NMCCLI is engaged in the marine transportation of containerized cargo, operating in Manila, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

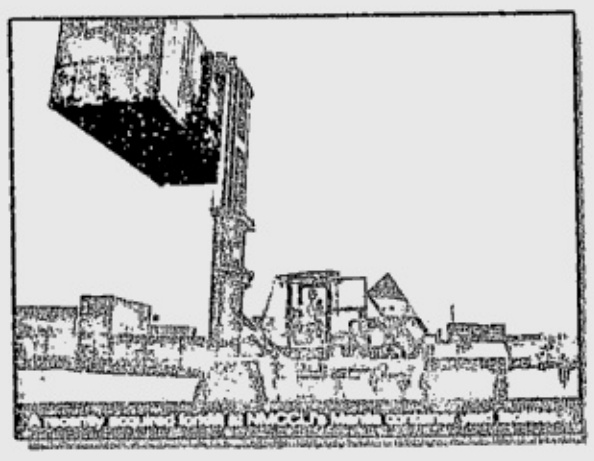
After improving work processes together with its partner in quality, SGS Philippines, NMCCLI completed the Quality Management System for all its branches this year, conforming to ISO's requirements. SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. It is recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity.

With its customers in mind, NMCCLI will not rest on its laurels. As Mr. Roberto Umali, Executive Vice President of National Marine Corporation, says: "We have taken the first step in improvement. Quality is not perfection but continuously refining every bit of work performed by each personnel to contribute to the success of the organization."

NMCCLI owns and operates four vessels: M/V General Del Pilar, M/V General Ricarte, M/V General Malvar and M/V General Geronimo, and all vessels comply with the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. Last March, Det Norske Veritas and DOTC's Office of Transportation Safety awarded NMCCLI vessels their ISPS certification. This means NMCCLI's ship security plans, on board equipment and personnel now conform to the ISPS Code.

All these assure NMCCLI's place as a prime mover in improving safety and service standards.





One of NMCCLI's vessels, M/V General Del Pilar, while docked at North Harbor, Manila.

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Paquito, Prudential and payback time

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FRANCISCO "Paquito" Dizon has reason to rejoice after his not-too-pleasant departures at the Philippine National Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

According to the grapevine, the former PNB chair and RCBC president, who is related by affinity to the Santoses, conducted months of cajoling and pleading to finally convince the disparate Santos clan to agree to the sellout.

The last of the holdouts, Prudential Bank chair and president Jose Santos, finally gave his consent, lest he gets cut out of the BPI deal, so the story goes.

Assuming he gets a 1-percent fee for his efforts, Dizon would effectively be entitled to the neighborhood of P61 million—a respectable neighborhood, indeed—in the P6.13-billion deal, not to mention the personal satisfaction of seeing Prudential not fall in Yuchengco hands.

The Yuchengcos of RCBC and the Sys of Banco de Oro separately submitted nearly identical bids in the P900/share range—one pro-BDO account even put a subsequent and much improved bid of P1,050/share—but somehow the Santoses chose the P746.4374/share offered by Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The mischievous market grapevine claims the Santoses actually obtained P1,300/share for their majority shareholdings, a claim that could not be independently verified given the covenants of the agreement.

In any case, the Ayalas swear on their stack of corporate governance bibles that, "Other than the agreement, no other contracts, agreements, understandings or relationships among the directors and executive officers of BPI and between such persons and any other persons, with respect to the shares of (Prudential), exist."

As of July 28, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, which owns more than 12 percent of Prudential, has not signed the deal, although it is widely expected that the Japanese bank would later give its approval, Mitsubishi being a significant partner of Ayala Corp., the parent company of BPI.

With the Japanese consent, BPI would easily obtain the 80-percent minimum shareholder approval that it has set out as a precondition for the buyout to be concluded.

Of Prudential Bank's 589 shareholders, Citadel Corp. of the Delgado-Quirino families—Francisco Delgado is in fact the bank vice chair—and taipan Henry Sy Sr. are among the publicly known minority shareholders that have yet to sign up to the sellout.

BF loses CA round

THE COURT of Appeals has denied Banco Filipino's petition to stop the Makati Regional Trial Court from hearing a festering intra-corporate dispute hobbling the thrift bank.

In a decision released late last week, CA Justices Eugenio Labitoria, Eliezer delos Santos and Arturo Brion ruled that Makati RTC Judge Sixto Marella Jr. did not commit any grave abuse of discretion, as alleged by Banco Filipino officers Teodoro Arcenas Jr., Albert Aguirre, Cesar Paguio and Francisco Rivera.

Banco Filipino and its BF Homes have hired a number of legal retainers, including the Roco Kapunan law firm and anti-GMA lawyer Homobono Adaza, to stop any court case relating to the bank boardroom dispute and the nasty family feud from proceeding.

The case before Judge Marella is being pursued by Ana Maria Aguirre-Koruga, the youngest sister of Banco Filipino vice chair Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, who is now in Seattle after her American husband had been deported following a complaint filed by Aguirre's lieutenants.

(Disclosure: Banco Filipino is suing Cocktales for P3 billion in damages.)

Money-go-round

- NEW Filipinas magazine owner, ad agency owner Gregorio B. Macabenta, has been hired by GMA 7 to be its PR and advertising adviser for the network's US marketing offensive.
- THE DREAM Satellite of Antonio Cojuangco Jr. has been TRO'd by the Court of Appeals from re-broadcasting ABN-CBN's programs. The Lopez network wants Dream to pay royalty fees for the privilege, since Dream competes with the Lopezes' Sky and Home cable business.
- THE PHILIPPINE TV advertisements in CNN are in peril, after a group of Duty Free personnel sued the Duty Free management, which is underwriting the flag-waving pro-

COCKTALES/ B4

KOREA TRADE CENTER MANILA
INVITES PHIL. BUYERS, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND SUPPLIERS TO MEET
KOREAN TRADE MISSION FROM IKSAN CITY
MANDARIN HOTEL MAKATI, FRIDAY- 26 AUGUST 2005

SELLING

1. COOL TAINER CO., LTD.	Multi Purpose Cold Storage Warehouse Unit
2. CYBERMEDIC CORP.	Medical Equipment : Electric Muscle Stimulator
3. DONG YANG SAFE CO., LTD.	Safes (Dial/ Digital Lock): Homes, Offices, Hotels
4. HALLA CHEMICAL CO., LTD.	Ammonium Thiosulfate: Photo Developng /X-ray
5. JUNG ANG STEEL CO., LTD.	Steel Roof Tiles : Stone Chip , Al-Zinc Coated
6. KUNJANG TRADE CO., LTD.	Korean Automotive Parts : New, Used , Surplus
7. SANG MYEONG ENTECH	Chemical for Gas Pipe and Boiler Pipe Cleaning
8. TAEYANG JW CORP.	Gold and Silver Jewelries & Accessories: Ring Necklace, Cuff Button, 10/14/18 K, Sterling. CZ

BUYING

9. KEUMSEOK STONE CO.	Stones for Garden Decor, for Tombs, Parks Etc.

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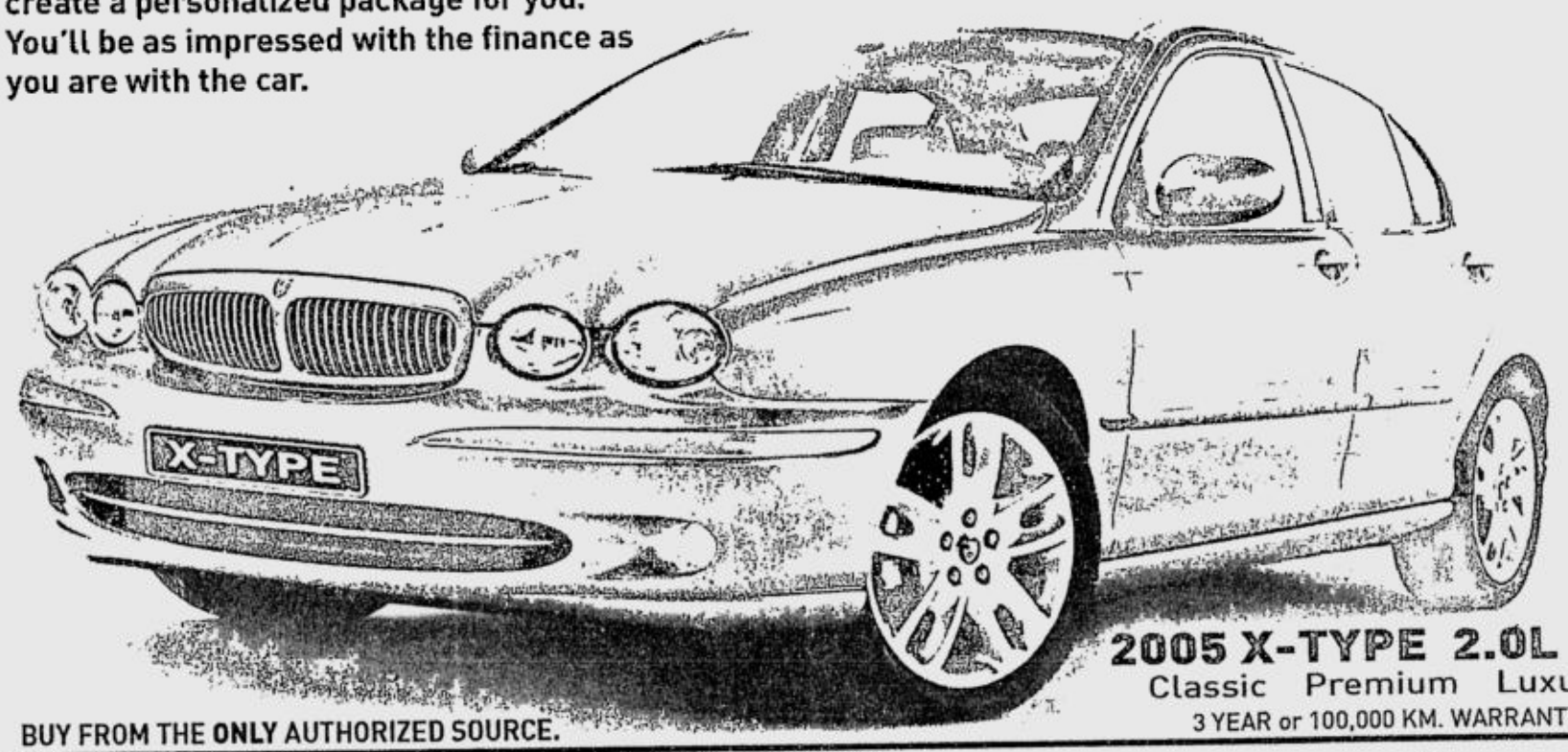

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Property Exhibit: Festival Mall from August 1 - 7, 2005
Shangri-la Plaza Mall on Aug. 15 - 21 and The Podium on Oct. 3 - 9

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Metrobank unit offers to raise funds for Ayala subsidiaries

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC), the investment banking arm of the Metrobank Group, is proposing to raise P5 billion in fresh funds for the Ayala Group, FMIC president Francisco Sebastian said.

Sebastian said FMIC was proposing to arrange a P3-billion corporate bond issue for Ayala Corp., the Ayala family's flagship company, and P2 billion for Ayala Land Inc., its property arm.

The corporate notes may have a term of at least five years.

Sebastian added that the Ayala Group could use the proceeds of the bond issue to refinance debt and fund property projects.

FMIC had also proposed to raise P3 billion in new funds for Globe Telecom Inc., Ayalas' mobile phone service carrier.

After paying down its maturing loans early this year, Ayala Corp. had said it was not keen on tapping the international bond market for new debt in view of higher borrowing costs arising from the recent cut in ratings of the country's sovereign debt by major rating agencies.

Ayala managing director and senior assistant treasurer Ramon Opulencia had said that Ayala's maturing debts dropped to $80 million from $230 million early this year. It paid $150 million in maturing loans last January. Ayala is also backed by a $300-million cash pile which it can tap to settle the liabilities. He added that Ayala had shifted most of its borrowings to peso loans. The group used to source 90 percent of its borrowings from the US market, by the end of January, its dollar borrowings had dropped to 52 percent.

With a lower debt burden, the Ayala Group is primed to spend roughly P35 billion in capital expenditures this year, the bulk of which will go to Globe and Ayala Land.

In the meantime, FMIC was recently awarded best investment bank by Hong Kong's Finance Asia.

It recently completed its work as financial advisor to National Marine Corp. for its acquisition of Neptune Orient Lines' stake in Lorenzo Shipping Corp., a publicly listed company.

Market . . .

From page B1

The main composite index rose to its highest close in more than a month, gaining 45.85 points or 2.34 percent week-on-week to 2,000.25.

Companies that reported strong results were Metrobank, Meralco, Manila Water, Petron and Aboitiz Equity Ventures.

"The strong numbers have convinced investors that the other results are likely to be positive as well. The strong corporate numbers and the recent favorable fiscal results have also boosted the outlook for the country's second-quarter gross domestic product performance," Vistan noted.

The government has forecast a growth of between 4.7 and 5.1 percent year-on-year, or higher than the 4.6 percent rise in the first quarter this year.

"Following the index's breakout from its major resistance levels and its ability to hold above it, we now have a pretty good foundation for stocks to continue to rally from. At the rate it is going, it seems like the Phisix will test its 2,040 resistance level this week," Vistan said.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

No . . .

From page B2

mess we're in if the kind of people wielding power remains unchanged.

Changing to a parliamentary system is not what we need. What needs to change is the way our political system makes it next to impossible for deserving leaders without ample financial resources to get elected. What needs to change is the way our political parties do not provide voters a real choice based on principles, rather than on mere personalities. What needs to change is the way political families tend to perpetuate themselves in power across generations. These changes do not require Charter change; they merely require the right legislation, bills for which have already been long pending in Congress.

With the entire Sona having been built mainly on two fundamentally flawed premises, I'm afraid I cannot be as kind as others who have given it a polite passing mark.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Cocktales

From page B3

ject, and the ad agency for alleged overprice.

Heard through the grapevine

THE GOZONS and the Jimenezes are talking again in an effort to finally pursue GMA Network's stalled IPO plan.

The two families have agreed to proceed with the anticipated public listing, with GMA Network chair/CEO/president Felipe Gozon dropping his demand for a shareholders' agreement prior to the IPO.

Depending on how fast IPO adviser Deutsche Bank could work on the new details, the blockbuster listing could put a millionaire smile on a multitude of investors in time for Christmas.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 29, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Aslatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	19,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	1,074,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	50	50.5	729,200
China Banking Corp.	780	780	780	780	130
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54	540,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	48.5	49	225,300
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	34,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	537,900
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	35,600
Phil. Savings Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	21,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	28	28.5	716,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	15,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	1,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2020	2010	2020	3,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	82,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	1,032,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	840	820	840	9,160
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	5,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.06	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,656,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1605	1635	1605	1625	130,990
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.57	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	6,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	205,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	24.5	23.75	24	738,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	1,138,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	6,205,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.24	1,175,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	500,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	650,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	360,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	3,799,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	145,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,108,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	30.5	31	230,600
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.76	0.7	0.76	410,000
San Miguel Corp. A	68.5	70	68.5	70	385,500
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	100	100	65,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	90,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,470,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	332.5	332.5	325	325	32,850
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.53	0.46	0.52	870,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5.1	6,330,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	23,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	2	1.96	1.98	1,051,000
APC Group Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,650,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.75	2,670,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.6	145,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	14,672,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.22	0.19	0.21	4,830,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,420,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	3,112,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.2	1,629,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46	44	45	669,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	75,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,613,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	155,000
Medco Holdings	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	2,016,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	9,010,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	610,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	2,290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	550,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	222	217	219	790,500
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.67	420,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.195	24,480,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.75	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0925	0.0925	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	2,030,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.5	7	5.5	5.5	3,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	560,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.38	1.44	1.36	1.42	4,085,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13	13	12.75	13	160,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.2	18,227,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	490,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.21	7,710,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	12,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	2,233,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.2	510,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.52	475,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	6,726,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.24	1.18	1.18	2,715,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.22	2,051,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	14,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	118,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	21,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	740,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	5,830,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	70,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	640,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	29	29	156,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	660,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	24,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	340,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.34	20,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.55	3.55	330,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,860,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	570,000

CURRENCIES

July 31, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828226	1.000000	56.1470
Japan	Yen	0.007373	0.008902	0.4998
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445503	1.745300	97.9934
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106480	0.128564	7.2185
Switzerland	Franc	0.639853	0.772559	43.3769
Canada	Dollar	0.669978	0.808931	45.4190
Singapore	Dollar	0.497911	0.601178	33.7543
Australia	Dollar	0.625312	0.755002	42.3911
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.197003	2.652661	148.9390
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220848	0.266652	14.9717
Brunei	Dollar	0.496420	0.599377	33.6532
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019867	0.023987	1.3468
UAE	Dirham	0.225527	0.272301	15.2889
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.207400	67.7919
Argentina	Peso	0.289589	0.349650	19.6318
Brazil	Real	0.337914	0.407997	22.9078
Denmark	Kroner	0.134009	0.161802	9.0847
India	Rupee	0.019110	0.023073	1.2955
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220831	0.266631	14.9705
Mexico	New Peso	0.077727	0.093848	5.2693
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562616	0.679302	38.1408
Norway	Kroner	0.126006	0.152140	8.5422
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013892	0.016773	0.9418
South Africa	Rand	0.125147	0.151103	8.4840
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000970	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.105675	0.127592	7.1639
Syria	Pound	0.015955	0.019264	1.0816
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025963	0.031348	1.7601
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0262

G&W Club Shares
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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	Pts. Call	1,170,000*
Alta Vista Corp.	-	200,000
Baguio Country Club	Pts. Call	530,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	140,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pts. Call	-
Club Filipino	Pts. Call	-
Eagleridge A/C**	190,000/Pts. Call**	150,000
Eastridge A/B*	Pts. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	2,250,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	370,000	680,000*
Makati Sports Club	200,000	170,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pts. Call	Pts. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pts. Call*/360,000**	150,000/350,000**
Puerto Azul	Pts. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pts. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/230,000**	-
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/160,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,250,000/1,500,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	Pts. Call	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	580,000	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pts. Call	-
Valley Golf	230,000	-
Valle Verde Ind	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,500,000	-

Tel. 7723246-49/8504151-52
(0917)3287789 E-mail: gwclubshares@yahoo.com

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YOUR TRUSTED SPECIALIST BROKER SINCE 1982
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BUY/SELL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
As of July 29, 2005

CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang Country Club "B"	please call	please call
Baguio Country Club	550K	450K
Canlubang Golf Club	600K	
Canyon Woods	125K	
Capitol Hills "A"	80K	
Celebrity Sports Club	115K	
Club Filipino	80K	
Club Punta Fuego		400K
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	190K	160K
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	300K	
Forest Hills Golf Club (Individual)	100K	
Manila Golf Club (Corp.)*	please call	please call
Manila Golf Club (Ind.)	please call	please call
Manila Polo Club	2.2M	please call
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GMA 7 revives IPO plan

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA NETWORK Inc. has revived plans to sell 25 to 30 percent of its shares to the public by early next year, with its major shareholders convinced they had found a way to iron out their differences and address their concerns.

The target, according to GMA president Felipe Gozon, is to hold an initial public offering by the first quarter of 2006.

Gozon, however, said GMA stockholders were now looking at proceeds higher than the previous estimate of P9 billion. He said the network's strong performance had most likely increased the company's market value from P30 billion last year.

GMA was supposed to hold an IPO in the first semester this year. However, it called off the plan in March due to differences among its shareholders, such as the families of Gozon, Gilberto Duavit and Menardo Jimenez Sr. The Gozons and Duavits were concerned about possibly losing majority control of the network.

The Gozon and Duavit group wanted to forge a shareholders' agreement requiring owners to hold on to their stake long after the six-month holdout period required by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Jimenez family, however, refused to sign the shareholders' agreement but stressed that it was not opposed to the IPO plan.

Duavit and Jimenez own 35 percent of the company each while Gozon controls the remaining 30 percent.

Since the Duavit and Gozons are allies, the Jimenez family is considered the minority shareholder.

The majority shareholders were worried that a third-party could purchase shares of the network from the market and from the Jimenez family, and end up owning the controlling majority of the company.

Joel Jimenez, the family's representative in the GMA board as well as in the executive committee, said his family had agreed to the new proposal of Gozon and Duavit.

GMA's financial advisers—ATR Kim Eng and Deutsche Bank—had proposed a new structure that would disperse the shares well that it would be impossible for one group to corner a huge block.

"Perhaps the majority shareholders realized that it's going to take a miracle for the likes of (telecom executive Manuel) Pangilinan to buy the block from the IPO, especially after the financial advisers assured them that the shares would be well dispersed," said Jimenez.

Pangilinan, according to Gozon, remained interested in buying into GMA.

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Bulacan to bid out water projects worth P4.5B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PROVINCIAL government of Bulacan is bidding out two bulk water projects worth at least P4.5 billion to meet the growing demand in the province and in Metro Manila.

Provincial administrator Gladys C. Sta. Rita said the Ayala-led Manila Water Co.—which has been eyeing more ventures to expand its business—had expressed interest in one of the projects, the P1.5-billion Bulacan Bulk Water project. The other venture is the DRT Water Project, estimated to cost between P3 billion and P5 billion.

Sta. Rita said the provincial government hopes to bid out this project within the year as part of efforts to fast-track its implementation.

She said the provincial government was in talks with various prospective proponents but MWC, which has been looking for new ventures to expand its business, "has been very persistent."

Sta. Rita said Bulacan was also in talks with the World Bank for project financing.

"Bulacan has an existing credit line through a World Bank facility, which would make it possible to forego the tedious process of going through the Neda-ICC (National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordinating Committee)," she said.

The Bulacan Bulk Water project would source water from the Angat dam and provide the supply needs of 10 towns in the province through the local water districts.

"This is a major project that will address the projected water shortage in the province," Sta. Rita said.

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Ibon's absurd opinion surveys

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IBON Foundation's "People's Rating of GMA, 2nd Qtr & 1st Qtr 2005 Nationwide Survey" is just as absurd as the surveys of Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, which I discussed last week.

Ibon Databank Phils. Inc. was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1982. In 1999, the name was changed to Ibon Foundation Inc., as a non-stock, non-profit corporation.

Of the nine incorporators, five were Catholic nuns. Does this mean Ibon is "church-based?" If so, I smell communists in Ibon. The communists always want their front organizations to be supported by gullible nuns and/or meddlesome priests.

Ibon seems to be an acronym, but I have no idea what it stands for.

Ibon is well funded from abroad. In 2003, it received foreign grants of over P11.8 million, which accounted for almost two-thirds of its income.

The nationwide survey on the people's rating of GMA is in line with Ibon's main purpose "to popularize socio-economic data, conduct research, training and other services for group working towards self-reliance."

Unlike Pulse Asia, which did not specify the questions asked in the interviews, Ibon asked pointedly: If you were Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's teacher, what grade/mark would you give for her running/managing the government on the following aspects of government? Cute, don't you think so?

Then followed the aspects: economy, job/livelihood creation, peace and order, foreign relations, peace talks, combating corruption, national unity and social welfare.

The final question (which is really what I think the survey was all about): Overall, what grade/mark will you give Pres. Arroyo for her performance as President of the Philippines?

The passing mark was not specified, but assuming it was 75 percent, GMA flunked in all the aspects, in each of the two quarters.

But the trouble with the survey is that terms like "mean" and "overall mean" are not explained by any footnotes. Another term "frequency (%)" is certainly a contradiction in terms. As a result, the figures (which are supposed to be the grades/marks) are actually meaningless.

Finally, like Pulse Asia, Ibon kept the numbers and locations of the interviews of the supposed nationwide survey a deep, dark secret. Why? Probably because no interviews were actually conducted. Or, as in the SWS survey, so few were interviewed that the results were mathematically invalid and totally absurd.

It has been said that statistics is like a lamppost to a drunk. It is used for support, not illumination.

Finally, a way has to be found to stop these absurd surveys. Short of a law being passed to regulate poll-takers like SWS, Pulse Asia and Ibon, I am convinced that media should learn not to be the first to be hoodwinked. A media boycott should drive these pollsters clear out of business. Believe me, we won't miss a thing.

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DMCI eyes ₱8B worth of projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

DMCI Holdings Inc. is bidding for P8 billion worth of construction projects this year.

The projects are the P6-billion St. Luke's Medical Center in Fort Bonifacio, the P1.2-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, the Robinsons Group's P500-million One Adriatico Place in Manila and the P300-million St. Francis Square Tower in Ortigas of the Kuok Group.

It is also in discussions with the Fil-Estate Group to build a 200-unit residential walk-up building within Fil-Estate's Fairways & Blue Water resort and golf club in Boracay.

DMCI is currently undertaking construction of the Shang Grand Tower. Owned by the Kuok Group of companies, this project will be completed by September this year.

The construction of the P276-million SM Supercenter Sucat Annex has also been awarded to DMCI.

It has also been commissioned to be the general contractor of Shopwise's fourth and biggest branch, the Shopwise Hypermart at the Araneta Center in Cubao. This project sits on 25,619 square meters of land area and was operational in May last year.

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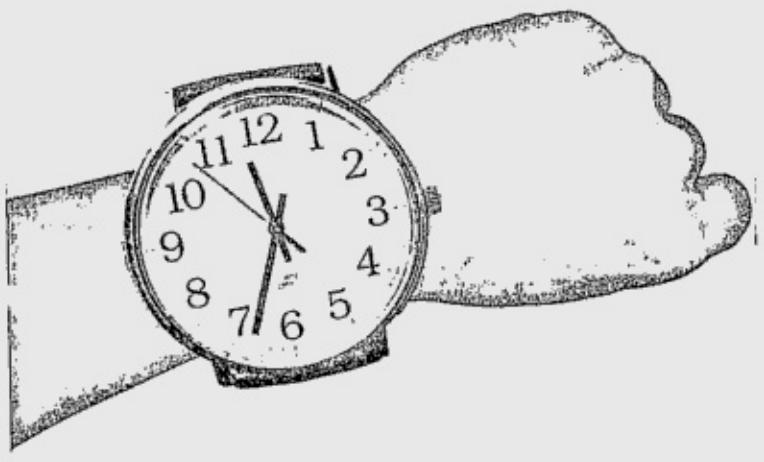

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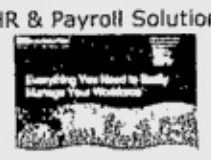

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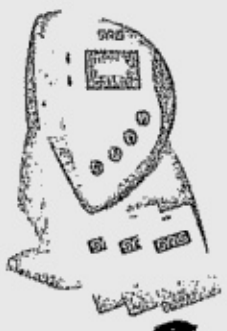

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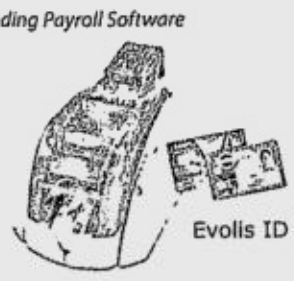

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NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PRUDENTIAL BANK

To All Stockholders of Prudential Bank:

Please be advised that the Bank of the Philippine Islands ("BPI" or the "Buyer"), is offering to purchase from stockholders of Prudential Bank (the "Company") at least 6,574,162 common shares of the Company (the "Shares"), representing 80% of the outstanding common shares of the Company and up to 8,217,702 Shares, representing 100% of the outstanding common shares of the Company for cash at an Offer Price of P 746.4374 per share (the "Tender Offer") under the terms and conditions attached hereto as Annex A ("Terms of the Tender Offer").

In connection with the Tender Offer, the Buyer filed on July 28, 2005, a Tender Offer Statement ("SEC Form 19-1") with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, stockholders of the Company may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by the Buyer beginning 9:30 a.m. of August 1, 2005 until 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Buyer subject to prior approval of the SEC.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Buyer may do so by securing an Instruction to Tender Shares form (the "Instruction Form") from the Company, the Depository, the Transaction Arranger or the PSE Public Information and Assistance Center and submitting a duly accomplished Instruction Form together with: (i) The original copy of stock certificates of the Company duly endorsed (for certificated Shares); (ii) If the stockholder is a corporation, a notarized corporate secretary's certificate setting forth the pertinent resolutions of the tendering stockholder's board of directors or equivalent body authorizing the tender and sale of the Shares and the designated signatories for the purpose including the latter's specimen signature; and (iii) If the stockholder is an individual, a photocopy of a valid identification card with signature to be presented together with the original copy.

The Depository, the PDTC Participant and/or the STA reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Buyer **must be received by the Depository in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005.** Shares received thereafter or without the required documents may be rejected by the Buyer. To ensure that the Depository receives the Shares in scripless form within the Tender Offer Period, the tendering stockholders should submit the required documents: (a) to the Depository, for certificated Shares, at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before August 19, 2005, to allow for lodgement of the shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") before the end of the Tender Offer Period; or (b) to their stockbroker or custodian (the "PDTC Participant"), for Shares lodged with their PDTC Participant, at least 3 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or on or before August 23, 2005, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Depository before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

Tendering stockholders may withdraw any Share tendered by sending a written notice of withdrawal to the Depository or the PDTC Participant (as the case may be) together with their copy of the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository or the PDTC Participant any time before the end of the Tender Offer Period. Shares shall be returned in the same form it was received to the PDTC Participant (if previously lodged with the PDTC Participant) or to the tendering stockholder (if previously certificated) within ten (10) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period. The cost of returning the Shares shall be borne by the stockholder making the withdrawal.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Buyer for payment on August 29, 2005 (the "Closing Date") subject to the fulfillment of following conditions on or before the Closing Date: (i) the Buyer shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Buyer of the Shares; and (ii) Eligible Shares representing at least eighty percent (80%) of the Company's outstanding capital stock or 6,574,162 Shares shall have been delivered to the Depository.

Prior to the commencement of the Tender Offer Period, the Buyer has put the Offer Price due on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the outstanding capital stock of the Company in escrow with the Purchase Price Escrow Agent, Bank of the Philippine Islands - Asset Management and Trust Group.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, the Paying Agent shall make available for pick up from its office, checks in payment for the Shares equal to the total purchase price less stock transaction taxes plus the tendering stockholders' pro rata share of any interest earned on the escrowed funds (net of applicable taxes and escrow fees). Check payments for certificated Shares shall be made in the name of the tendering stockholder for pick-up by the tendering stockholder or his/its duly authorized representative. When collecting payment, the tendering stockholder is required to present the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository together with proper identification documents. His/Its duly authorized representatives shall be required to present an authorization letter from the tendering stockholder. Check payments for Shares lodged with a PDTC Participant shall be made in the name of the PDTC Participant. Beneficial owners are advised to arrange with their PDTC Participant on the manner of collecting payment for their Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Instruction Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1. For queries, please call any of the Company, the Depository or the Transaction Arranger at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Instruction Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the Company, free of charge, from the following:

- Prudential Bank
  3/F Prudential Bank Building, 6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Yvette B. Rosete at (632) 812-7558

- BPI Securities Corporation as Depository, Crossing Broker and Paying Agent
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Janet D. Amora at (632) 845-5617 or Mr. Jasper M. Jimenez at (632) 816-9190 or 92

- BPI Capital Corporation as Transaction Arranger
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Mr. Luis C. Urcia at (632) 816-9102 or Ms. Barbara C. Untalan at (632) 816-9491

- The PSE Public Information and Assistance Center
  G/F PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
  Attention: Ms. Arlene Edades at (632) 688-7601

- PSE website at www.pse.org.ph

By:
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Residential subscribers top DSL service in Davao

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

DAVAO CITY—Residential subscribers are gobbling up broadband Internet service more than businesses here, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT)said Friday.

PLDT officials said resident buyers of digital subscriber line (DSL) outnumber business buyers by a ratio of three to one.

There are now 1,544 DSL subscribers in Davao City, compared to 590 business users of PLDT's DSL service, according to Gilberto Ruiz, PLDT senior manager head of Davao business zone.

Internet gaming was cited as one factor driving demand for broadband Internet access service, Ruiz said.

Mario Encarnacion, PLDT vice president and head of the Mindanao business district, said that the increased awareness of broadband Internet services in the city contributed much to the growing demand for DSL.

The free PC promo that comes with the DSL service of PLDT has also driven demand, Ruiz said.

Davao City has a big population of students, although there is also a significant number of businesses in the city, mostly dominated by small and medium enterprises exporting local products.

Davao has about 250,000 households, with about 10,000 subscribed to PLDT Vibe, a dial-up service.

Meanwhile, Ruiz noted that the city has 269 registered Internet cafés, with 198 subscribed to PLDT DSL.

The P1,995 DSL plan, which offers 384 kilobits per second bandwidth, is making a killing in the city.

"We have not been doing much marketing lately but people are subscribing to this service," the PLDT executive said.

The PLDT Davao operation expects data revenue share increasing to 12 percent from 6 percent in 2004.

The officials did not disclose actual 2004 revenues.

2 more RP firms sign up for SAP BusinessOne

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

TWO more Philippine companies in the small and medium enterprise category have signed up for the business software firm SAP AG's BusinessOne, a business enterprise solution developed for this specific market segment, officials said.

SAP recently closed deals with Allied Motors Manufacturing Philippines Inc. and Sumitomo Fruits (Sumifri) Philippines Corp., according to SAP Philippines manager for small and medium business, Patrick Tan, at the official launch of the German software company's SME software package.

Allied Motors has been distributing products of the US engine manufacturer Briggs and Stratton since 1999. This year the company decided to move production of its single-cylinder gasoline engines from China to the Philippines.

Sumifri Philippines is a subsidiary of the Japanese food and fruit production firm Sumitomo Fruits. The corporation had announced early this year that it was pouring an additional P1.5-billion in investments for expansion programs in the country.

These two new companies have been added to a growing list of BusinessOne customers in the Philippines prior to its official launch in the country, Tan added. The software company has closed earlier deals with AJMR Holdings Corp., General Santos Doctors Hospital, San Andres Fishing Inc. and South Star Drug.

SAP Philippines sales director Jennifer Ligones said the Philippine subsidiary expects BusinessOne to generate 10 percent of its overall revenues in 2005, expected to double in 2006.

"We're looking at about 1,000 customers in the Philippines for BusinessOne," Ligones added.

The Philippine small and medium enterprise market often demands more discounts from software companies, and purchases are now in bite-sizes, according to Krishnendu Datta, SAP Philippines managing director.

"Demands of Philippine SMEs are not much different from those in other countries in the region. But Philippine companies ask for more discounts," Datta said.

The range investment for BusinessOne is between a few hundred thousand to a couple of million pesos, Datta added, but he stressed that customers usually dictate how much they are willing to pay for a business solution.

With about 72.9 million small and medium enterprises worldwide, SAP and rivals Oracle and Microsoft are now jostling for a better, if not a dominant position in this relatively untapped market.

For SAP the development of BusinessOne has so far worked for the company as it enters the "mass market" for business software, according to Pranay Mital, SAP Asia Pacific Pte Ltd director for SMB operations in the Asia Pacific.

"We're going at a rate of 5 deals a day in Asia Pacific. In China alone, we have ended the quarter with 120 deals for BusinessOne. In Singapore, we already had 48 deals closed," Mital said, noting that SAP's small and medium enterprise business is expected to grow 100 percent quarter-to-quarter with BusinessOne.

"This is going to be a significant volume business for SAP," the SAP executive said.

Mital added that SAP is also set to launch a Linux-version of BusinessOne and will start selling it in China.

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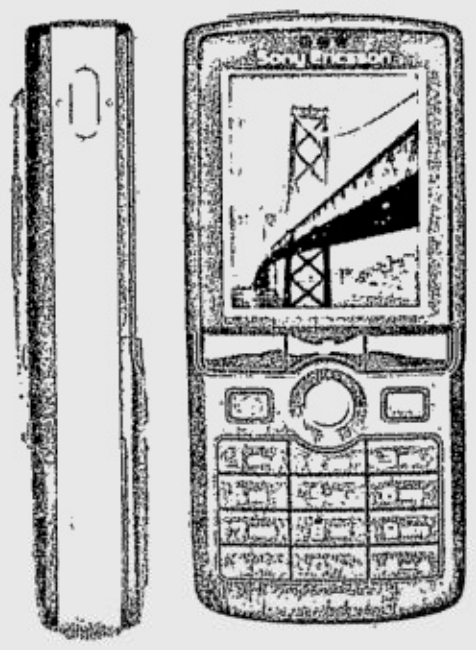
K750i wins imaging award

SONY Ericsson's 2-megapixel K750i has been awarded 2005 Best Mobile Imaging Device by the Technical Image Press Association (Tipa) European Photo and Imaging Awards.

Tipa is composed of 31 leading European magazines in photography and imaging from 12 countries and stamps products with its special logo based on quality, performance and value for money.

Tipa called the K750i a "prime example of such a new generation" of camera phones. "It combines an MP3 player with a 4.8mm f/2.8 auto focus 4x digital zoom lens, red-eye reduction function, image editing and a photo album. It delivers good minilab quality pictures up to 10x15 cm print size."

Images are also shared easily via Bluetooth, Infrared or USB cable. Based on the same technology used in popular Sony digital cameras, the K750i takes advantage of the imaging know-how of Sony Corp., its parent company.



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- Mallen Baker, Development Director, Business in the Community, UK
- Andre Cohen, Vice President & Managing Director for Asia Pacific, Timberland Co.
- Stuart Dean, President, GE South East Asia
- Bart Edes, Head of NGO Center, Asian Development Bank
- Ricky Fukada, Delegation Leader, Council for Better Corporate Citizenship, Japan
- Tex Gunning, Business Group President, Unilever Bestfoods Asia
- Noke Kiroyan, Non-executive Chairman, Rio Tinto Indonesia
- Dugal Muller, CEO, Oxford Index, UK
- Anita Roddick, CEO, The Body Shop, United States*
- Emil Salim, Professsor / Civic Leader, Indonesia
- Chetan Sharma, Founder & CEO, Datamation Consultants, Indonesia
- Senator Mechai Viravaidya, Founder and Chairman, PDA Thailand*

*invited

Partial List of Topics
- Aligning CSR Strategies and Core Strategies of a Corporation
- Implementing CSR Strategies thru Collaboration
- CSR Strategies for SMEs
- How the Right Strategies for CSR can make Business Effective
- Communicating and Reporting CSR Internally and Externally
- Expanding Markets and Customers through CSR
- MDG: What Business needs to know
- Business case for anti-corruption
- Women Leaders in the workplace - issues and challenges
- What are the leading best workplace practices?
- CSR as a tool for managing risk
- If, Why, When and How business should get involved
- How much should a company invest in CSR and Why
- CSR as a tool for competitiveness

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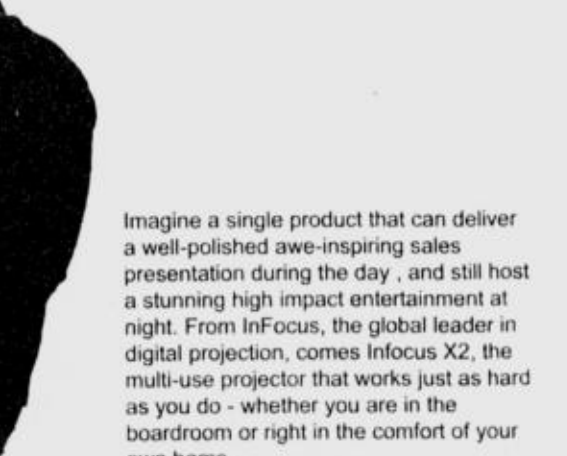

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Public sector borrowings down 5.23% in H1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S much improved cash position resulted in a 5.23-percent drop in public sector borrowings in the first semester over a year ago.

Bank lending activities also picked up during the same period.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported that private sector credits increased by 5.3 percent in the first six months from a year ago.

Net domestic credits on the public and private sectors comprise the financial system's net domestic assets which, in turn, are part of the country's domestic liquidity.

Domestic liquidity, or M3, is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

Tetangco noted that credits to both the national government and semi-government entities declined by 4.71 percent and 8.32 percent, respectively.

"The decline in credits to the [national government] may be attributed to recent improvements in its fiscal position that resulted in lower net borrowings from the financial system," Tetangco said.

The government chalked up its second monthly budget surplus this year with a P246-million windfall in June, aided by improved tax collection, savings on interest payments and prudent spending.

As such, the January-June budget deficit amounted to P67.51 billion, P31 billion below the target ceiling of P98.515 billion.

Tetangco announced that demand for money continued to grow strongly in June as the M3 rose by 12.8 percent year-on-year to P2.21 trillion, a step up from the 12.2 percent annual rise recorded in May.

On a monthly basis, the M3 rose steadily by 1.4 percent in June like the previous month.

"The continued rise in domestic liquidity can be traced mainly to the build-up in the banks' foreign exchange position on the back of robust foreign exchange inflows," Tetangco said.

He added that deposit money banks' net foreign assets more than tripled due to robust foreign exchange inflows coming from remittances by overseas Filipino workers and portfolio investments.

In addition, improvements in the BSP's net international reserves—arising from lower foreign liabilities and accumulation of foreign assets—helped sustain the M3 expansion, he said.

Lower energy demand prompts DOE to reconsider power shortage forecast

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH ELECTRICITY demand seen to be slowing down, particularly in the residential sector, the Department of Energy may push back its power shortage forecast in the Luzon grid to later than 2008.

In a recent interview, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the DOE was currently looking at the country's supply-demand scenario, taking into consideration the slower demand in the residential sector and the introduction of the time-of-use (TOU) charging scheme initially for customers directly connected to the National Power Corp.

"Looking at the supply-demand scenario, we may need some changes in the forecast," he told reporters. "We want to have firmer numbers. Demand is going down, particularly in the residential sector. The introduction of a TOU scheme will lead to a change in power consumption by industries. We have to work with distribution utilities on demand-side management."

Energy Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo added that the National Transmission Corp. and distribution utilities all over the country have up to Aug. 15 to submit their regional load requirements and capacities to the DOE.

These inputs would then be included in the DOE's revision of the power development plan included in the Philippine Energy Plan, Ocampo said.

But despite slowing demand, she said the possibility of encountering shortages was still there.

"Our current study may entail some changes in forecasts but, at this point, we still see 2008 as the need to plug the gap," Ocampo said. "With slower demand, it may be pushed back. But we still don't want to take chances."

In a presentation more than two months ago, Lotilla said the country needed at least P359.9 billion in investments for new capacity in the three main grids from this year to 2014 to avert a power crisis.

In Luzon alone, to put in 7,200 megawatts (MW) of additional capacity, P256.5 billion would have to be infused from 2008 to 2014.

In the Visayas grid, some P25.8 billion in new investments would have to be infused from 2008 to 2014, Lotilla said, to add another 600 MW in capacity to the entire grid.

The need for new capacity is greatest in Mindanao as some P77.6 billion in new capital has to be invested in the grid from 2005 to 2014 to prevent a crisis, particularly during the summer months.

The Mindanao grid's heavy dependence on hydropower had driven up the need to establish more peaking plants there. Lotilla said peaking plants with a combined capacity of 150 MW would have to be set up this year.

The Mindanao grid last year had a peak demand of 1,278 MW, hovering dangerously close to its dependable capacity of 1,402 MW and installed capacity of 1,665 MW.

By this year, peak demand in the grid is seen going up to 1,371 MW.

Estimate of Tax Leakages

Tax Type	DOF	PIDS	IMF	NTRC
VAT	P69.85 billion	P92.357 billion	P47.52 billion	
Corporate Income Tax	P59.38 billion		P4.5 billion	P55.96 billion
Personal Income Tax	P98.951 billion	P105.74 billion		P50.06 billion
Excise Tax	P2.563 billion			
Documentary Stamp Tax	P6.4 billion		P4.2 billion	
Interest Witholding Tax/ Interest on Bank Deposits	P1.18 billion		P10.93 billion	
Fringe Benefits Tax	P2.33 billion		P1.33 billion	
Gross Receipts Tax	P1.5 billion		P1.5 billion	
Insurance Taxes	P370 million			
Total Estimated Leakage	**P242.47 billion** 42.2% leakage (P574B potential collection)	**P198.10 billion** 61.6% leakage (P321.4B potential collection)	**P74.86 billion** 43.2% leakage (P162.3B potential collection)	**P113.08 billion** 43.5% leakage (P260B potential collection)

Drive vs tax evaders . . . From page B1

Had these taxes been collected, the government would be experiencing recurring budget surpluses instead of chronic deficits.

Hard-pressed to collect more taxes, former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and former BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. thought it was about time the government implemented an anti-tax evasion program fitted with a "fear factor."

Thus, Operation RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) was born.

Under the program, authorities would file tax evasion charges against high-profile individuals or businesses—without entertaining compromise offers—every week.

The main objective was to deter tax evasion, rather than pin down suspected tax evaders and make them pay up, according to Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, who was instrumental in conceptualizing the program.

"We wanted to make it more difficult for people to evade taxes by increasing the risks involved," Bonoan said.

Improved tax collection

Revenue-wise, the program was a runaway success.

Tax collections in the BIR's regional offices—once laggards in collection efficiency—shot up, with many units surpassing their targets.

"April, May and June were good collection months largely because of [RATE]," Henares said. "I would say that [the program] contributed to it, because there was nothing that was different from last year."

More importantly, the high-profile tax evasion cases were cheered by the public which now saw, for the first time, that there was political will to prosecute even the most famous or well-connected tax cheats.

Amnesty programs

The government's past efforts to collect revenues were dominated by tax amnesty programs that promised tax delinquents immunity from suit once they settled a portion of their liabilities.

Fifteen tax amnesty programs have been implemented over the last 14 years, either through legislation or administrative measures.

Research data now show that these programs failed to significantly increase collections and had, in fact, been blamed for the decline in revenue collection on certain years.

Indeed, RATE is the only tax campaign that can genuinely be called a success.

Unfortunately, its effectiveness is now being eroded.

Losing its edge

The resignation of Purisima and Parayno along with the rest of the "Hyatt 10" last month dealt a serious blow to the government's efforts against tax evasion.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag, the agency's interim head, earlier declared that he was willing to go easy on criminal prosecution as long as tax evaders would pay up.

He argued that he would be measured by how much taxes he was able to collect, rather than by how many tax cheats he sent to jail.

Buñag the next day retracted his statement after he was reportedly scolded by new Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Interviewed last week, Buñag said he would abide by the "the official line" for now. "What Secretary Teves said is that we'll pursue the cases, and [the BIR is] not thinking of settlement at the moment."

He repeated the words "at the moment," hinting that the official policy may soon change.

In fact, change may already be here.

First break in policy

Last week, authorities declined to file charges against a still unnamed tax evasion suspect, marking the new BIR administration's first break in policy with the old.

Last Thursday was the first time Finance and tax officials failed to troop to the justice department to file their complaint—a weekly practice mandated by Purisima in order to gain maximum exposure for the program.

Buñag said the weekly filing of tax evasion charges was a thing of the past.

Will they file cases fortnightly instead?

"Maybe ... I'm not sure yet," he said. "[There will be] no fixed schedule. If we're ready with one, we'll file [the case]. *Basta kumpleto 'yung kaso* (so long as the case is complete)."

Without declaring it, the BIR has begun to dismantle the single most effective tax campaign in its history.

(To be continued)

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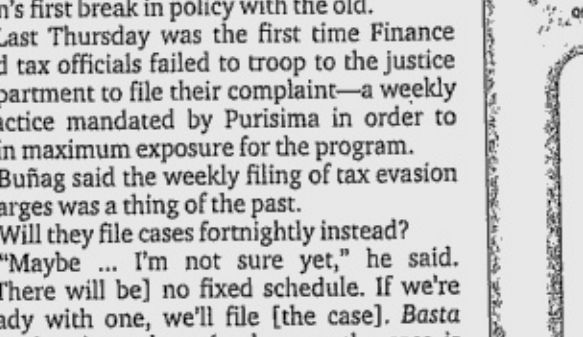

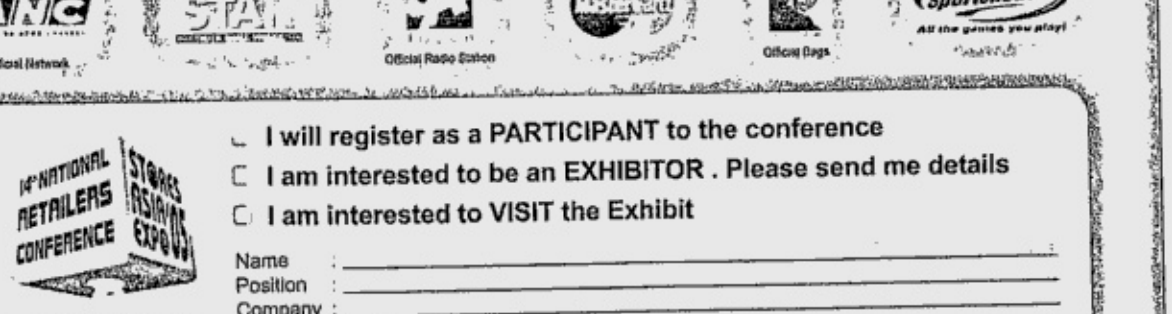

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Fifth Judicial Region
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Daet, Camarines Norte

IN THE MATTER OF CANCELLATION OR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY AND CHANGE OF NAME OF MELANIE HANTAL STIBICK/KATRINA GRABADOR TO KATRINA GRABADOR; SPL. PROC. NO. 1357

MELANIE HANTAL STIBICK/KATRINA GRABADOR, assisted by her guardian MARIANO EBRON SAMONTE,
Petitioner,
- versus -
CIVIL REGISTRARS OF MERCEDES, CAMARINES NORTE and SINILOAN, LAGUNA and ROQUE SAMONTE,
Respondents

ORDER

Petitioner Melanie Hantal Stibick/Katrina Grabador is a minor and is represented by her guardian Mariano Ebron Samonte. Carmelita Cadian Hantal was married to Moises Grabador and they begot a child name Melania Hantal Grabador who was born on May 16, 1977. When Moises died, Carmelita married an American surnamed "Stibick". From then on, Carmelita and Melania began using the surname Stibick. When they went to the US, Melania was enrolled with the Social Security System as Melania Hantal Stibick on the belief that her surname automatically became Stibick when her mother Carmelita married the American. Later on, Melania went back to the country and on November 15, 1994, she gave birth to petitioner at Siniloan, Laguna, out of wedlock and of unknown father. However, petitioner was erroneously registered with the LCR of Siniloan, Laguna as Melanie Hantal Stibick on the belief that petitioner could also use the surname Stibick inasmuch as the petitioner's mother Melania is Stibick. In 1997, when Melania went back to America, she trusted the petitioner to herein guardian. The situation became more complicated when in February, 2002, a certain Roque Samonte registered petitioner anew with the LCR of Mercedes, Camarines Norte as Katrina Grabador. It was made to appear that the father of petitioner is Roque Samonte and she was born on November 7, 1994. Since then, petitioner is using the name Katrina Grabador. Since the petitioner is an illegitimate child, she should bear the correct surname of her mother-Grabador. Inasmuch as the entries in her Certificate of Live Birth are inaccurate, those entries must be cancelled. The foregoing is necessary to establish the real identity of the petitioner, to protect her from further emotional suffering brought about by confusion in her identity and to eliminate any legal obstacle. She prayed that: (i.) her name be changed to Katrina Grabador; and (ii.) it be accordingly entered with the civil registry that she is the daughter of Melania Hantal Grabador (now Melanie Hantal Stibick) and was born out of wedlock with unknown father in Siniloan, Laguna on November 15, 1994.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and in substance, the same is given due course. Set the initial hearing of the petition on August 12, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. and giving notice to anyone who may have objection hereto to file their opposition on or before the date of initial hearing.

Let a copy of the order be published at the petitioner's expenses in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the date set for initial hearing. Notify all the parties concerned.

SO ORDERED.

Given this 24th day of June, 2005 at Daet, Camarines Norte.

ROLANDO M. PANGANIBAN
Presiding Judge

(PDI – July 18, 25 & Aug. 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR LUZON
3rd Floor, Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
(In Compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER III, – Item No. OMBA-GIPO3-1-2005; SG-28; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 5 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: R.A. 1080 (BAR)

***GRAFT PREVENTION AND CONTROL OFFICER I,** – Item No. OMBA-GPCO1-1-1998; SG-11; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: none required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional), Second Level Eligibility *This is a republication of the vacancy published on January 20, 2005 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Previous applicants were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to the Office Order No. 49-05;

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The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education is a recipient of an Office Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of JPY7,210 million to finance the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures for the construction of the following:

Project Description	School	Location
Single Storey, 3-Classroom Building	Biliran Natl. Agricultural High School	Biliran, Biliran
• Two Storey, 4-Classroom Building • Single Storey, Library Building with Faculty and Guidance Room	Cabucgayan National School of Arts and Trades	Cabucgayan, Biliran
Single Storey Science Laboratory Building	Viga National High School	Maripipi, Biliran

JBIC requires that the bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contract. In pursuance of this, JBIC: (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC OAD loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building in category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award. Schedule of issuance of Bidding Documents, pre-bidding conference and opening of bids are as follows:

Municipality		Start of Issuance of Bidding Documents	Pre-Bidding Conference	Opening of Bids
Biliran	Date	August 3-12, 2005	August 10, 2005	August 22, 2005
	Place	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Cabucgayan	Date	August 3-12, 2005	August 11, 2005	August 23, 2005
	Place	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Maripipi	Date	August 3-12, 2005	August 12, 2005	August 24, 2005
	Place	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Contact Person: Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee				

The complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00 for Biliran and Culaba building packages and P5,000.00 for Cabucgayan building packages.

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue and dates. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all the bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary for Administration and Finance

(PDI – August 1 & 8, 2005)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE CONCEPTION AGUINALDO GARDUQUE HAVE EXECUTED A DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC NO 131 PAGE NO 027 BOOK NO 331 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE ATTY WILFREDO Q. ABOG A NOTARY PUBLIC
(PDI JULY 29,AUG 1 & 8 ,2005)

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In Loving Memory
on the **1st Death Anniversary** of

VIRGILIO S. TORDERA

who passed away on August 1, 2004.

Sto. Niño de Paz Church .. *Greenbelt Makati*	..... 5:45 PM
Our Lady of Mary Mediatrix .. *Lipa City*	..... 6:00 PM
St. Joseph's Cathedral ..... *Tagbilaran City*	..... 5:30 PM
Holy Family Church ... *Kapitolyo, Pasig*	..... 6:00 PM
St. Joseph's Church .. *Baras, Rizal*	..... 6:00 AM
St. Francis Church ..... *Mandaluyong City*	..... 6:00 PM
Holy Family Church .. *Quezon City*	..... 5:00 PM
Immaculate Conception .... *Pasig City*	..... 6:00 PM
Muslim Village Mosque ... *Dasmariñas, Cavite*	..... 2:00 PM
Lalabunn Mosque ..... *Tamparan, Lanao Del Sur*	..... 2:15 PM

Mercedez Tordera, wife; Nakanishi Family, FPJ Volunteers Brigade & Friends to join us in prayers for him

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

MARCIANA TIONG SYCIP

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 31, 2005 at the age of 87.

Her loving family: husband, **Francisco Z. Sycip** (†); children **Polly** & **Richard O. Chua, Nora** & **Macrobio Lim, Francis, Richard**; grandchildren **Frances** & **Sonny, Chris** & **Janice, Oliver, Richie, Mimie** & **Ting, Margie, Renren** & **Glenn, Kelly, Marvin, Henri**; & great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capella of Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City on August 1 and 2, 2005.

Please omit flowers.

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Death Notices

CONRADO MAGTIBAY ESCANO, DMD
Peacefully joined our Creator on July 23, 2005
A memorial service will be held at Saint Joseph Church, Pinole California, USA on August 2, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

JOSIE HERNANDEZ DE LEON MARSHALL
Has passed away in the grace of our Lord on July 27, 2005 in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.
A memorial gathering will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2005 at 5 p.m. followed by the Holy Mass at 7 p.m. at Delaney Hall, UP Chapel, Diliman, Quezon City.

SISTER MARGARITA ALOVERA, OSB
Received what she ardently desired: To go HOME to the FATHER.
Her remains lie in state at St. Scholastica's Chapel, Manila. Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on August 2, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
— John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Training Activities

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Land Reform (DLR) formerly Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

The Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) component is granted a prominent importance in BIARSP Phase III. This component is intended to cover all areas that will improve the ability of DLR and its partner agencies to ensure the sustainability of the projects undertaken with the help of BIARSP along with other Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) programs and projects. The need for a comprehensive capacity-building plan for the DLR staff has been recognized. Due attention is also being given to Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to ensure the sensitization of partners and a strengthened collaboration among stakeholders.

BIARSP-TSCO invites eligible institutions and companies to express their interest in providing training activities on:

- Powerful Presentation Techniques
- Developing IEC Messages and Print Materials

Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES – Tenders) for the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) of each training activity as well as standard format for budgetary requirements. Please submit technical proposal/s with information such as company profile, brochure, budgetary requirements, key qualification of resource persons, description/experience of similar assignments through any of the following:

E-mail : tsco@biarsp.org
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Fax : (035) 422-7736

For further queries, please get in touch with Ma. Teresa C. Valencia, IEC Officer, at tel. #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8661; and 422-7459.

In view of the urgency of the activities and the projected availability of the target participants on the proposed schedules, interested parties are advised to submit their proposals not later than August 12, 2005.

(PDI–July 31 & August 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT
City of Makati, Branch 67

MECHANICAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT CO., INC.,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
ANTHONY C. FLORES,
Defendant.

ORDER

The Motion to Serve Copy Of Decision By Publication filed by the plaintiff, through counsel, is GRANTED.

The Branch Clerk of Court is directed to comply with the provisions of OCA Circular No. 5-2002.

SO ORDERED.
City of Makati, June 3, 2005.

RICO SEBASTIAN-O. LIWANAG
Presiding Judge

— oOo —

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT
City of Makati, Branch 67

MECHANICAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT CO., INC.,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
ANTHONY C. FLORES,
Defendant.

DECISION

The instant Complaint is for a Sum of Money filed on 25 April 2003 by plaintiff Mechanical Handling Equipment Co. Inc. against defendant Anthony C. Flores.

On 24 July 2003, for failure of defendant Anthony C. Flores to file an Answer within the reglementary period, he was declared in default and plaintiff was allowed to present its evidence ex-parte

Accounting Department Head Gloria Elizabeth Tolentino and Vice –President for Finance and Administration Veronica L. Co testified[1] that defendant Anthony C. Flores was a former Sales Supervisor assigned at plaintiff's branch office in Cebu City.[2] Upon plaintiff's investigation, it was found out that as Sales Supervisor, he made cash advances, used company funds and received payments from clients worth P255,993.00 which he failed to remit and remained under his account.[3] On 17 March 2003, he resigned without having remitted said account, however, acknowledged his indebtedness to plaintiff and promised to settle it.[4] Nevertheless, he failed to comply such that a demand letter dated 05 April 2003 was sent to him but to no avail.[5] To protect its interest, with the claim remaining unsettled, plaintiff instituted the present suit claiming said amount plus P100,000.00 as other damages, legal interest, Attorney's fees and cost of suit.

By preponderance of evidence, plaintiff was able to prove its cause of action against defendant Anthony C. Flores. The latter is liable to pay the former P255,993.60 plus interest rate of 12% per annum from 20 March 2003 until fully paid. Inasmuch as plaintiff was constrained to resort to judicial action to protect its interest, Attorney's fees is awarded which is set at a reasonable amount of P10,000.00 the cost of suit is also properly chargeable against defendant.

WHEREFORE, judgment is rendered is rendered declaring defendant Anthony C. Flores liable to pay plaintiff Mechanical Handling Equipment Co., Inc. the following amounts:

1. P255,993.60 plus interest of 12% per annum from 20 March 2003 until full payment;
2. P10,000.00 as Attorney's fees; and
3. Cost of suit.

SO ORDERED.
Makati City , 02 April 2004.

EVELYN S. ARCAYA-CHUA
Pairing Judge

(PDI–July 18, 25 & Aug. 1, 2005)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE / REAL ESTATE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
BACOLOD			
AM-CP-094	National Road, Brgy. Sum-ag, Bacolod City	6,995 m², adjoining 2 parcels of commercial/residential lots (TCT Nos. T-182764 & T-182766) with ricemill bldg.	P 6,245,400.00
BATAAN			
AM-ED-095	Lot Nos. 13, 16 & 17, Blk. 32, Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Mariveles	150 m², adjoining 3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 229487 – 229489) with bldg. & imp.	P 384,800.00
AM-ED-096	Lot Nos. 35, 38 & 39, Blk. 31, Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Mariveles	150 m², adjoining 3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 229505 – 229507) with bldg. & imp.	P 353,000.00
BATANGAS			
AM-ED-097	Diversion Road, Brgy. Alangilan	18,139 m² industrial lot (TCT No. 53085) with bldgs. & imp.	P 39,847,000.00
AM-PY-223	Brgy. Sta. Rita, Batangas City	590 m², adjoining 2 parcels of semicommercial lots (TCT Nos. T-43159 & T-43160) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,570,000.00
CAVITE			
DAT-01	Corner Galicia and Valencia Sts., La Residencia de Bacoor, Anibon 1 Bacoor	256 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-108835)	P 1,740,800.00
DAT-02	Ground Floor, Bacoor Business Center, Brgy. Salinas and Habay Bacoor	Condominium unit No. 107 (CCT No. CT-1829)	P 1,183,100.00
AM-CP-098a	Metrogate Subd., Brgy. Lancaan, Dasmariñas	120 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-98735)	P 420,000.00
AM-CP-098b	Metrogate Subd., Brgy. Lancaan, Dasmariñas	120 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-98738)	P 420,000.00
DAVAO			
JTG-006	40 Purok Galignan, Mankilam Road, Tagum City	2,791 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-190125) with bldg. & imp.	P 5,291,200.00
JTG-001	Margarita Rd., Margarita Vill., Bajada Davao City	2,000 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347769)	P 4,600,000.00
JTG-004	Camelia St., San Pedro Vill., Buhangin, Davao City	1,146 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347765)	P 3,781,800.00
JTG-007	Cor. Mankilam Road & main entrance road of Villa Patricia, Tagum City	1,791 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-190126)	P 2,686,500.00
JTG-005	China Sea St., Ecoland Subd., Phase 3, Matina, Davao City	525 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 347768)	P 2,362,500.00
AM-JA-099	Purok 1, Padilla Compound, Rizal Ave. Interior, Poblacion Zone II, Digos City	1,122 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-53895) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,508,600.00
LAGUNA			
AM-PY-016	Lot 12 Blk. 8, St. Joseph Village 6, Phase 1 Butong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-584429 with bldg. & imp.	P 195,800.00
AM-PY-015	Lot 9 Blk. 14, St. Joseph Village 6, Phase 1 Butong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-584431) with bldg. & imp.	P 195,800.00
PANGASINAN			
AM-CP-100	Pagal District, San Carlos City	11,200 m² adjoining 4 industrial lots (TCT Nos. T-32082 – 32085) with bldg. & imp.	P 12,000,000.00
RIZAL			
AM-PY-050	Lot 8 Blk. 3, Señora dela Paz, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City	375 m² residential lot (TCT No. 388967) with bldg. & imp.	P 975,500.00
	Bermuda Heights Subd., Bos. San Ibayo and San Isidro, Antipolo City	Subdivision lots:	
AM-PY-101	Lot – 12 Blk – 1	300 m² TCT No. 403154	P 378,000.00
AM-PY-102	5 4	337 m² TCT No. 403153	P 377,440.00
AM-PY-103	1 3	336 m² TCT No. 403152	P 376,620.00
AM-PY-104	12 5	322 m² TCT No. 403156	P 360,640.00
AM-PY-105	2 5	277 m² TCT No. 403155	P 329,630.00
AM-PY-106	1 7	287 m² TCT No. 403157	P 321,440.00
CHATTELS			
AM-ED-107	Diversion Road, Brgy. Alangilan, Batangas City	Various machinery and equipment for marble making	P 17,574,200.00
AM-JA-108	Mactan Economic Processing Zone, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu	Oxygen-Nitrogen-Argon Plant machinery & equipment and spare parts supplies & inventories	P 10,000,000.00
AM-ED-109	Trigen Ice Plant, Numancia, Aklan	One (1) unit Mobile Crane, 35 ton capacity 60 ft. lattice boom ISAHI	P 610,000.00
AM-CP-110a	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Parañaque City	One (1) unit Electric Heating Upsetter, TICHO, Model KT-VH260	P 244,400.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; (054) 721-2307 for DAT; and 892-3836 and 818-9511 local 2227 & 2229 for DAT and JTG.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – August 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-14-34
Tel. Nos. 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail: oic@i-manila.com.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **CENTRAL SURETY & INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.** was ordered to cease and desist from transacting insurance business for cause effective May 24, 2005. Since then, no new and/or renewal business of any kind or character can be done by said company or for such company by its agents in the Philippines unless and until its authority to do business is restored by the Commissioner. The company was placed under conservatorship on June 30, 2005, pursuant to the provisions of Section 248 of the Insurance Code, as amended.

R.S. BERNALDO & ASSOCIATES, with offices at Unit 1810 Cityland Condominium 10 Tower I, 6815 Ayala Avenue cor. H.V. Dela Costa St., Makati City is the appointed Conservator.

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN S. SANTOS
Insurance Commissioner

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BUSINESS

BIR may ease program for tax delinquents

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue plans to further ease the requirements of its compromise program for tax delinquents after the agency failed to attract a significant number of takers due to the the stringent rules of the program.

BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag said he would order a review of the No-Audit Program (NAP), with the objective of again relaxing its rules in order to accommodate more taxpayers.

When the program was launched early this year, the BIR said it was looking at attracting 100,000 applicants who would voluntarily settle their unpaid tax liabilities. However, the BIR reported that, as of July 15, there have only been 2,532 individuals and 1,517 corporate taxpayers that availed of the program.

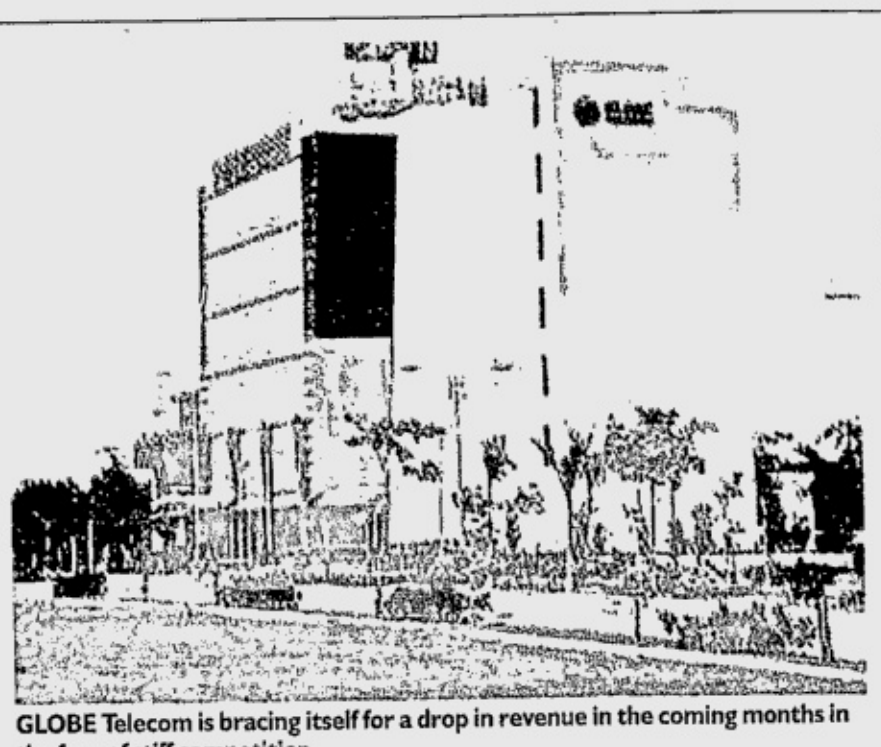
The program took effect as soon as President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 399.

The executive order was issued amid delays in the legislation of the Tax Amnesty bill—one of the measures the Arroyo administration was pushing to address the country's fiscal problems.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR, said the government could make do with the NAP, considered to be the administrative version of the Tax Amnesty bill.

With the NAP, the BIR hopes to increase its revenue collection by inviting individuals or businesses with unpaid tax liabilities to voluntarily make their tax payments in exchange for being spared from the revenue agency's tax audit.

But the program has a set of requirements that are described to be stringent. While the program, with its existing rules, is said to be a softer version of the original, many taxpayers still want to scale down the requirements, the BIR said.



GLOBE Telecom is bracing itself for a drop in revenue in the coming months in the face of stiff competition.

Globe sees lower H2 revenue

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. is worried that its second semester revenue may be weaker due to a shrinking consumer wallet as well as continuing pressure from competition, according to its top official.

Globe, the country's second largest telecom company, had seen its revenue growth slide since the latter part of 2004. The trend continued in the first quarter when revenue grew by only 5 percent.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza refused to say anything about the second quarter performance as the listed company was prohibited by the stock exchange to discuss the numbers it would announce this week.

"We are hoping that demand continues in the second half," Ablaza said. "Obviously, the economic environment has become very challenging for consumers."

In May, increasing inflation and higher taxes began to threaten the profit margin of the Philippine telco industry, the country's fastest growing sector, Ablaza said.

Globe, a joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom, is wary that, with inflation hitting more than 8 percent or double what it had been 2 years ago, consumers would be spending less on telco services.

Filipinos spent P196 billion for transportation and communication in the first nine months of 2004 compared to P154.5 billion in the same period in 2003 and P131.12 billion in the first three quarters of 2002.

Ablaza is worried that previous spending habits benefiting the telcos may no longer be sustained.

DA to impose stricter rules for meat importers

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture will soon impose stricter guidelines in issuing permits to meat importers in an effort to curb the abuses of unscrupulous traders, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said.

To prevent the misuse of import permits, meat importers will be required to return the unused permits issued to them by the DA's National Meat Inspection Service and the Bureau of Animal Industry within a month, Panganiban said.

"We will recall the unused import permit and [the importers must explain] why they were not utilized within the specified period," Panganiban said in an interview.

He explained that this measure would determine if the importers would be qualified in obtaining permits in the future.

Some importers have taken up the practice of lending their unused import permits, which could result in the entry of under priced commodities into the country.

Panganiban also noted that there is a need to strengthen the country's meat importation procedures and sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures to ensure the safety of products.

The Philippines is still heavily dependent on the importation of top grade meat used by the meat processing and manufacturing industry. To date, the Philippine meat processing industry imports some 201 million metric tons of manufacturing grade beef, chicken and pork yearly.

BUSINESS Monday

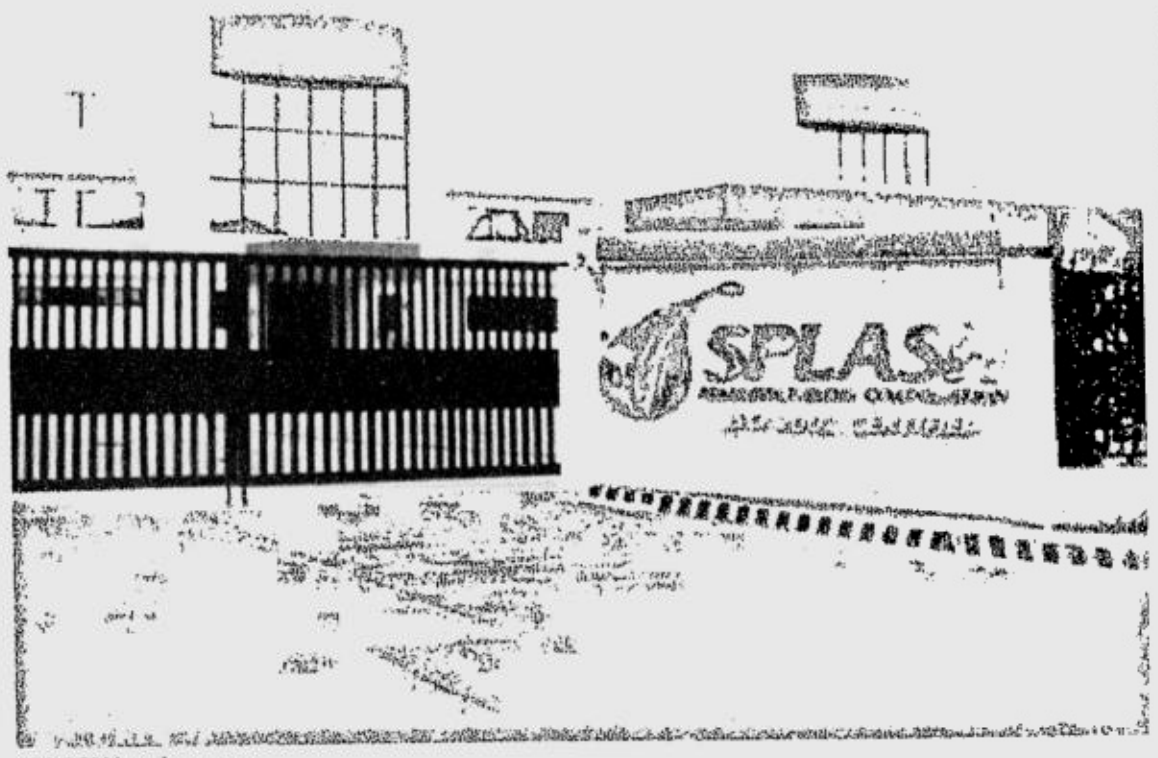
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

Citibank marks One Million Credit Cards milestone, 103 years of banking service.

See section B4 for more.

Gateway to north bids to become industry hub



SPLASH headquarters

By Trina A. Lagura
Contributor

HIS vision to make Valenzuela an industry hub of the country might be too ambitious, but Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian believes the city is fated to become one in 10 years.

A gateway to the northern province, Gatchalian debunks claims that the city is too far from Manila to be the center of the industry action, saying that Valenzuela City's strategic location to bigger markets has made it an ideal spot for commerce. These bigger markets, he says, include Quezon City, Makati City, and Caloocan City. Businessmen can source their raw materials in Valenzuela, he says.

"(But) most of our consumers are from Metro Manila although numerous workers from the north are employed in our city," Gatchalian says.

Investors are also scampering to locate their factories in Valenzuela because the value of the property there is cheaper compared with other cities. For instance, Gatchalian says, the property in Valenzuela is 30 to 40 percent cheaper than QC.

Business in Valenzuela is thriving. The city registered an additional 1,000 small and medium-sized industries for this year, 39 of which are manufacturing firms. However this is is still far from the 8,000 registered last year, with no record of any closure.

"Valenzuela is home of several industries... we have sari-sari stores and trading companies...these industries include packaging, beauty products, beer, canned goods, corrugated products just to name a few," Gatchalian says.

The San Miguel Brewery, CDO, Splash, Pure Gold, Uratex, Rebisco, Bestank, and Plastimer are among the big manufacturing firms in the city, but the biggest investor so far for this year is SM, which is set to open a mall here by November.

Almost all of the businesses in the city are locally-owned. Gatchalian says that if there were foreign investors they usually have local partners.

And with a big pool of labor force from the city's estimated 600,000 population, Gatchalian's dream might not be that unreachable after all.

Ball of thread

Likening Valenzuela to a ball of thread that he is slowly untangling, Gatchalian is not a stranger to the fact that convincing businessmen to invest in his city is a difficult task. He admits that primarily the political turmoil besetting the country is "the only ma-

GATEWAY/ B2-3

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MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005

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Editor Aries Espinosa

MediCard: Inspiring lives, fulfilling dreams

RICHARD works for one of the country's top multinational IT companies. His decisiveness, dedication and leadership skills have given his work ample recognition from the company's management heads. Richard's goal in life is not only to earn a respected position in the company but more importantly, to be a good provider for his family. One day, he noticed that the cold he's had for the past week had aggravated into severe coughing. Having confided his condition to his wife, both agreed to seek immediate medical help. Richard was hospitalized and underwent a battery of lab exams to ascertain his condition. Now, worries have set in from concerns both for his health as well as the financial burden his ailment might put on the already tight family budget. But his fears were assuaged when the diagnostic test results were negative of anything serious, and when he learned that the MediCard coverage he enjoys with his company would cover for his confinement.

This is just one of the thousands of stories that abound in the rich and colorful tradition that MediCard Philippines is proud of. The story began in 1987, when the Montoya family galvanized its commitment to the fresh, new beginning that the Philippines was facing by establishing MediCard. As an HMO focused on preventive healthcare, the concept soon caught the practical and sensible minds of the working class who believed in and lived under the dictum "Health is Wealth". This awakening swept like wildfire and soon, MediCard Philippines was servicing most of the country's blue-chip companies. Through the past 18 years, MediCard Philippines has provided unparalleled service and introduced pioneering products that have benefited the Filipino immensely. It has touched the lives of more than a million cardholders and their dependents as well as improved the future of countless others.

After almost two decades of providing quality managed healthcare services, MediCard turns over a new leaf as it upgrades the look of its corporate logo and membership cards. Renowned for its comprehensive array of healthcare services, wide network of hospitals, doctors, specialists and dentists and an exemplary track record, MediCard updates its appearance to exemplify its renewed commitment to providing its 400,000 members the unsurpassed healthcare services they need.

While maintaining its distinct blue hue, more profound change can be easily noticed with the stylized Rx symbol--the symbol with which MediCard is recognized. It has been given a 21st century upgrade on a strikingly handsome makeover.

Today, as MediCard Philippines celebrates 18 wonderful years of product innovation and unwavering service, people like Richard can be assured that they can work towards the fulfillment of their dreams. Thanks to the committed excellence from MediCard, one the country's largest HMOs with one of the largest network of medical practitioners and institutions nationwide. And with its new look, MediCard reinforces its mission of healthcare excellence that it has been founded on. Now, look forward not only to the peace of mind that a MediCard healthcare program can provide, but to a new look that now matches its multitude of services.

NNC, BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB MOA SIGNING
In celebration of the 31st Nutrition Month this July, the National Nutrition Council spearheaded the staging of the next biggest Nutrition exposition, the 2005 Nutri-Lympics. The July 30 event at SM Storyland Batangas expounded on the theme 'Batang may kinabukasan, sa wastong nutrisyon simulan' through the various educational sessions, fun games, and booth exhibits. Vitaminized Lactum co-presented the event. The support of Bristol-Myers Squibb Mead Johnson was formalized during the MOA-signing. Shown, from left, are Edith A. De Leon, regulatory and external affairs manager, Roger Dallas, general manager of Brystol-Myers Squibb Mead Johnson, Elsa Bayani, Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council, and Maria Lourdes Vega, Chief of Nutrition Information and Education Division of National Nutrition Council.

ProductFiles

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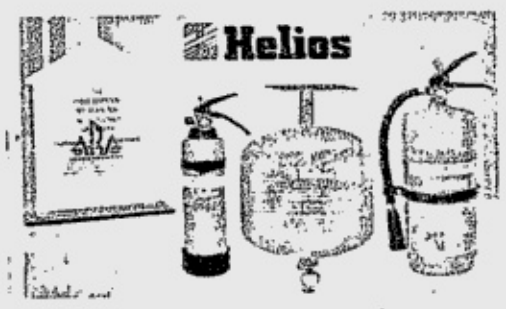

EVERSAFE International Enterprises was recently awarded in the 1st Philippine Builders Excellence Awards at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan as the No. 1 Fire Extinguisher company in the country. It won in its security, fire equipment and services division.

The Helios fire extinguisher, exclusively distributed by Eversafe International Enterprises, is a world-class product designed to answer the needs of the Philippine market for an international standard yet affordable fire extinguisher. The company, established in January 1998, is ISO 9001:2000 certified and attests to the high quality of the Helios brand.

Helios is manufactured with the protection of the ozone layer in mind. Among the approved standards of its manufacture are: the Australian Standards (AS); Malaysian (MS); British (BS); Singapore (PSB); European (EN); Shell Petroleum; Lloyds of London, and Philippine Coast Guard standards.

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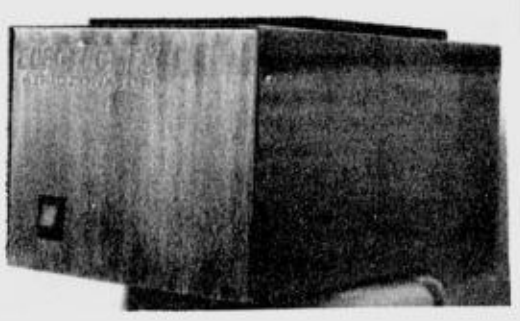

THE MODERN and high-tech way of removing odors from your car and room is by the use of Air Ozonators. Not to be confused with generic Ionizers, the Electromex Air Ozone Generators use ozone (O3) gases that kill germs and bacteria that cause odors. Thus, the scientific statement reveals "No Germ, No Smell". Not only do Ozonators kill airborne viruses and minimize risks of diseases such as influenza, SARS, TB, and asthma, Ozonators are known for destroying and eliminating both organic and industrial-based odors.

Ozonators destroy odor emanating from cigarette smoke, wet paint, wet carpet from rain or floods, mildew (kulob), rotten food/drink spills, dog feces, soiled diapers, durian, dried fish, bathroom waste, and even vomit. There's no need to handle toxic cleaning chemicals and CFC-based sprays with artificial scents.

The company also builds heavy-duty Ozonators for hospitals, trash rooms, piggeries, call centers, schools, theaters, newly painted rooms, public comfort rooms, gyms, kitchens, grease traps, food courts, bars, restaurants, and malls. Each Electromex Ozonator comes with a one-year warranty and carries a full money-back guarantee. Electromex will do an on-the-spot demo against any local or imported Ozonator and Ionizer available in the market anytime, anywhere.

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Sharp hosts 14th annual suppliers' night

THE OFFCIERS and executives of Sharp Philippines together with their suppliers

ADDING another feather to its cap, Sharp Philippines Corp gives importance to its valuable suppliers by hosting a dazzling evening of glitz, glamour and prestige in its 14th Annual Suppliers' Awards Night July 22 at the Bellevue Manila in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Recognizing the important contributions of its suppliers to the growth of Sharp in the country, SPC honored them with accolades they truly deserved.

SILVERIO Montalbo, emcee for the night

Hosted by SPC's VP and division general manager TMD, purchasing and FU warehouse division Silverio F. Montalbo, the event was graced by top officers led by president and general manager Mitsunobu Hattori, SVP, finance and administration Kazuhisa Kamiya, VP sales and marketing Hiroshi Hatano, VP finance Jaime Custodio and AVP production Masao Imaizumi. This grand affair was attended by 89 suppliers spearheaded by the SPC Suppliers' Association president Virgilio Co, who is also president of Manly Plastics Inc.

MITSUNOBU Hattori, president and GM of Sharp Philippines Corp.

During the awarding ceremonies, all suppliers were handed a plaque of appreciation and a new CD Cassette Player as a token of gratitude for their unwavering faith and support to Sharp. "Every supplier is treated with equal respect and recognition no matter how big or small. We in Sharp have maintained our suppliers for so many years now because we want them to grow with us, even in these difficult times," says Montalbo. "Our commitment is our word, Sharp Philippines Corp has stepped up its efforts to maintain the stature that it has now. We are counting on you (suppliers) every step of the way," adds Hattori.

The Best Supplier's Awards, after careful deliberation, were bestowed on Anaconda Metal Fastener Inc; Atlas Metal Products Manufacturing Co Inc; BK Electronics Philippines Inc; Chin-su (Philippines Co Inc; Edgeworth Marketing Corp; Itabashi Seiki Philippines Inc; Janus Manufacturing Inc; Jinss Lee Printing Corp; Malinta Corrugated Boxes Manufacturing Corp; Manly Plastics Inc; Mega Packaging Corp; Philippine Belt Manufacturing Corp; Starsound Electronics Philippines Inc; Toyo-Ink Compounds Corp; Uni-Mill Manufacturing Co Inc; Valerie Products Manufacturing Inc; Villarosa Industries Inc; Logistics Cargo Forwarders and Brokerage Corp; Best Partner Trading Co; Mitsumi Philippines Inc; Sankyo Seiki Co Ltd; Sharp Electronics Malaysia; and Skyfied Industries Inc.

Their awards were given due to their exemplary performance and outstanding involvement in the progress of SPC in its goal to keep expense costs down while improving the quality of their products. "Their consistency in dealing with us and their relentless efforts to offer the best services to SPC have been one of the major reasons in choosing them for the award. It was difficult, but we know they truly deserved it, states Norietta de Ocampo, SPC-Sr CED purchasing manager.

The ISO Awards were given to BK Electronics Philippines Inc, Chin-Su (Philippines) Co Inc, and Philippine Belt Manufacturing Corp for their completion of their ISO certification in 2004. Bagging the Best Effort award was Carla Manlulu of Transmodal International Inc, who has been a vital factor in making SPC operations easier and always on time.

This was also used as a launching pad for the two newest products of Sharp, the 58-inch Aquos Projection TV and the Sharp Water microwave oven. The 58-inch Projection TV has a state-of-the-art design. Meanwhile, the Sharp Water microwave oven is the first of its kind in the Philippines, using the newest technological innovations.

Ending the night with a bang, Sharp Philippines Corp raffled off fabulous prizes such as flat TVs, microwave oven, washing machines, refrigerators and air conditioning units to its suppliers. Everybody went home with a smile.

NEW SHOWROOM
In response to the growing needs of the domestic market, Thule/EGR Philippines has opened a showroom at the Ground Floor of the Natividad Building, 2308 Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) Extension, Makati City. On display at the Thule showroom are the EGR automotive visors, Maxliner pick-up accessories, various Thule load and box carriers and the now popular bike racks. In true Thule fashion, patrons can view Thule/EGR products at a relaxing, comfortable, cozy and classy atmosphere. All Thule/EGR products come with a full warranty and is the only load carrier system being sold in the country certified by the Ford Q1, QS9000, German DIN 75302 and Environmental Certificate ISO 14001. Thule is also available as a dealer option for Toyota dealers in Pasong Tamo, Makati, Toyota Ortigas and in select Nissan dealers in Metro Manila. For inquiries about how to maximize and protect your investment, log on to www.thule.com or visit the new dealership at Chino Roces Extension, Makati and the Thule/EGR showroom at the Equitable Bank Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Roosevelt Street, Greenhills, San Juan, or call 744-6367/892-7847.

WILCON PROMO WINNERS ALL
Wilcon Builder's Depot recently concluded its 'Pick-the-Prize' raffle promo. Shown are the three showcase winners drawn separately. They are (from left picture): Donna Soriano (with Ronan Medel, DIY manager), bedroom showcase winner in the 1st raffle draw held March 31; Perlita Boncgo (with Vincent Abastillas, assistant Depot manager), bedroom showcase winner in the 2nd raffle draw held April 15, and Mimosa Lopez (with Gary Bosch, Depot manager), bathroom showcase winner in the 3rd raffle draw held April 30.

Madela represents RP

AFTER having bagged the silver trophy, The People's Choice Award and the Best Voice of Asia Male Singer of the Year at the Voice of Asia Song Festival two years ago, singer Jed Madela will represent the country in yet another international competition—in Hollywood no less. This time Jed is competing with over 40 contenders from countries from seven continents. The week-long festival of the 2005 World Championships of the Performing Arts (WCopa) in Hollywood, California happens from Aug. 3 to 16. This global event is already on its 9th year. It is the first time the Philippines is sending its representatives. Team Philippines will consist of Madela and Rizza Navales, their respective road managers (Vincent Tajanlangit and Jeanette Co), delegation head (Ida Henares) and team coordinator (Mike Chiong). Sponsors for this endeavor are Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp, GM Proponents of Artists Inc, Dewberry Coffee, and Power Learn.

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THIS is not your ordinary Buy 1 Take 1 promo. Watsons has incorporated a new twist to this idea with its latest treat for its customers --"Buy 1 Get 1". Depending on what product you're going to purchase, customers can either get the same product, a freebie on selected items, or obtain merchandise that would complement the item that they bought. Watsons customers get more value for their money. So hurry and get your fix of toiletries, body and skin care products, soaps, and a lot more because the promo runs only until Aug 3. Watsons, Your Personal Store, is the largest health and beauty retailer in Asia, currently operating over 980 stores in 9 markets.

Biz Clips

For lasting change, change your 'shoulds' to 'musts'

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Franco G. del Rosario

THE THEME of this year's Annual MAP CEO Conference is "Change Or Perish: The Choice Is Yours!"

For those who missed my last article in this column, I wrote about the comfort zone as the enemy of change. And for us to have an extraordinary life on Earth, we have to change some of our belief structures preventing us from raising our standards.

As simplistic as this may sound, it's the only way to change a person's life.

Create lasting change

Some of us have probably, at one point or another, said, "I want to change this and that," or something like, "I want to lose weight." Then we started to change, only to go back to where we were.

Anybody can change for the moment, but lasting change is what we are after.

Before we can get ourselves to change, we have to make the decision to change. It is only after we have made this decision that we can move forward.

We need to cut off any other possibility, except the commitment to change. If you think about it, most of the effort is in the deciding.

So in the case of people who want to lose weight, some of them may find it easier to fast than to diet. Because in fasting, there is no decision needed. You just zip your mouth. No need to choose what food to eat.

Our belief system keeps us from actually engaging the parts of us that would make something a "must" and not a "should." The truth is, we have a lot of "shoulds:" "I should do this..., I should do that..., I should go on a diet..." In fact, many times, we don't actually do any of these. We just "should all over ourselves", so-to-speak.

Believe that change is a 'must'

One belief you must have to create lasting change is that "change is a 'must', not a 'should'." When someone says, "I really should go on a diet," you know it's not going to happen! Why? Simple! The dead giveaway is the use of the word "should."

When something is a "should," we do it for as long as it does not pose any inconvenience or interruption. Therefore, we get inconsistent results.

What ends up happening in most cases, is that when the "should" takes more time and effort than what we were prepared for, we make excuses like, "oh man, this is so difficult, I will just do it another time; I'm too busy."

What actually allows us to change is the decision to make change a "must." Why? Because when it is a must, we don't stop looking until we find a way to do it, regardless of the inconvenience involved.

We simply do not give ourselves any other choice, and we take it to another level in our bodies, minds, emotions and spirits.

If there is something we have not changed, yet keep thinking about it, you can bet on the fact that this belief that "change is a must" is missing.

'I can, I must, I will change'

It is not enough to merely say "I must change it." The other belief that needs to exist is "I can change it!" Why? Because no one in his right mind will put time and energy into something that he has no certainty will work, simply because the part of "I can do it" is missing.

So, let's say, now it's a "must" for us to make this change. So the second step to create lasting change is we must interrupt the limiting pattern or the "disempowering" pattern. If we break the pattern again and again, our body will eventually be unable to go back to it.

Say, we are upset with someone and we try to tell them that we are upset with them. Then, they say something that makes us a laugh. But, we still try to remain upset with them. But somehow, they make us laugh again.

After several times, we can't get mad anymore. What did this person do? They interrupted our pattern enough times that we could not get back into it. This now opens us up to something else.

This is how change works. It works when we break a pattern, allowing us to become open to change. Without breaking the pattern, change will not happen.

Past does not equal the future

Some people who give up after several tries believe that the past is equal to the future. This is where a great mindset is necessary; i.e., communicating to oneself that this moment is new, then move forward to accomplish something never done before.

Mark your calendar for Oct. 19th, at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. Bring your friends to the MAP CEO Conference. By attending, you will leave changed and ready to reap a harvest of growth and enrichment. The MAP cordially invites you to listen to our speakers, the ultimate "who's who" in Philippine business.

Our featured speaker is Jim Davis, global chief marketing officer of SAS Institute; a firm listed in the most prestigious Fortune's "100 Best Companies To Work For" for seven straight years. In 2004, it was was ranked 8th. He will be talking in two sessions, namely: "The Complete Leader as Change Master: Global Perspective" and "The Top Three Critical Objectives of a Change Master to attain Work-Family Balance."

He will undoubtedly bring you to higher levels in business and your personal life. He will challenge you to change and reach further and make a difference in your organization, industry, and in the Philippines. His insight will surely bring new revelations and opportunities to improve . Don't miss it!

(The author is co-chair of the MAP CEO conference committee and managing consultant and CEO of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Gateway to north ...

From page B2-1

jor stumbling block" he sees toward the anticipated progress, adding that "if our macro economy is stable, every city or municipality will benefit from the growth of our economy."

But this finance and operations management graduate is undaunted by these issues. Having managed several companies including a family business, the 31-year-old mayor's top priority is to put his house, that is the city hall, in order to gain and keep not only the investors' trust and confidence but most especially his constituents.

"My vision is to be able to professionalize our city hall employees and deliver excellent service to our constituents. I have to go back to the basics and restore the credibility of our government. We have to eliminate corruption and professionalize our city hall. That's our way of providing incentive to our business sector to invest and expend in Valenzuela," he says.

Gatchalian is one of those who believe that eliminating red tape and eradicating graft within the city will further encourage businessmen to invest in Valenzuela. He is eyeing computerization of the whole city hall as a means of addressing these problems. He hopes that the computerization of the city hall's system will also boost the local government's tax collection.

Last year, a Trade and Industry Council in Valenzuela was created under an executive order, which serves as a venue for businessmen to air their concerns. Among its members are the local business clubs.

"This encourages the businessmen to coordinate with us. We also plan to create a business directory to know the place where they (buyers) can source their raw materials in Valenzuela. We will also try to make an investment code. Also, if you put up a shop in Valenzuela you might get certain incentives," he says.

The problems in his own backyard such as the city's narrow streets, infrastructures, traffic, graft and flood however are big threats in his bid to make Valenzuela the center of commerce in the country.

SAN Miguel Brewery

"We hope to build more roads and a bridge to connect western and eastern parts of Valenzuela and improve the flood control system (of the city)," he says.

As for the peace and order, Gatchalian laments that although well-equipped there are not enough police to protect its people.

"We currently have 270 policemen. Divide that into three shifts, we have 90 policemen on the streets at any given time. With approximately 600,000 in population, we have a ratio of one policeman for every 6,666 residence. The US standard is one policeman for every 500 residence, clearly way below the standard," he says.

To augment the undermanned police force, he says the city can only rely on the help of the national government, from which he said he gets strong support.

Sincerity is the key

Improving the peace and order, good roads and infrastructures, people's discipline and excellent service by the local government are the key factors Gatchalian is heavily banking on to achieve the dream.

Celebrating BPI's 154th anniversary, BPI Family Savings Bank offers higher interest rates for Plan Ahead Time Deposit, only for the month of August.

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AM Sessions and Topics:

1. Direct marketing and CRM strategy: The simple, straightforward way to plan and build a strategy that works (and why many marketers focus on the wrong things)
2. CRM: Why has so much failed – and how can you succeed? 10 simple questions for CRM managers that will save you from a lot of misery
3. Drawing up a DM Budget: How much you should be willing to spend on marketing
4. How to get lots more sales from your ads and mailings. Avoiding the seven deadly sins of direct marketing
5. Building response and brands: How Direct Marketing and CRM works – and how it can build your brands
6. Creating compelling, sticky creatives that deliver response and results:
   a. How to interrogate your product or service and tease out what sets you apart from your competitors
   b. How to "climb inside" prospects' minds and understand what's most likely to make them act
   c. How to plan and brief so your messages are far more likely to work
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   b. The thing that's more important than a USP – and how to find it for your business
   c. FAQs answered, like:
      - What should go inside an envelope?
      - How long should copy be?
      - How many pieces should a mailing have?
2. Choosing the right media – internet, email, tv, direct mail, radio, print?: Proven formulae and techniques that work in all media, on-line and off, print and broadcast.
3. Bonus tip: What's missing from 90% of messages; plus more of your FAQs are answered:
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Farmers as active market players

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Direct selling, as a concept, has come of age to farmers, fishermen and poultry and livestock raisers in Candaba, Pampanga, who are blessed by the resources of the Candaba Swamp, considered one of the country's three important marshes in terms of biodiversity.

On Friday, they converted an old warehouse across the Department of Foreign Affairs compound here into a marketplace, setting up at least 50 stalls to sell about 20,000 kg of vegetables, fruits, fish, pork, chicken, duck, eggs and food products from those bounties.

The newly harvested produce from the town's 33 villages gave out the colors of rural setting in that abandoned warehouse.

With buyers flocking as early as 6 a.m. when the fair opened, the marketplace pulsated with life.

"*Magigisan na la* (They're almost gone)," Oscar Manapat said of the brisk sales before noon.

THE IDEA is to pool the produce and bring crops straight to the market to make good profit.

Fresh produce

He and 100 small landowners-farmers in Barangay Bambang sold 275 kg of *ampalaya* (bitter gourd), 210 kg of eggplant, 670 kg of squash, 3,900 bundles of *sitaw* (string beans), 50 kg of *sili* (chili), 63 kg of *langka* (jackfruit), 300 kg of *patola* (bottle gourd) and 750 kg of corn.

"*Presyong bukid* (Farm gate prices)" was what they barked as buyers came scouting. Farmers slashed the prices by 25 percent. Thus, the fair's title was "Farm Fresh 25."

Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo organized the fair, saying he wanted it to be a permanent marketing support for the town's 5,433 farmers and their families.

"Where else can you find a town with so much land (18,711 hectares) and that's nourished by the Candaba Swamp? The problem, and this has gone on for decades, is that farmers have barely organized themselves to become a market player," he said.

The concept, he said, came from former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap's "Huwarang Palengke" concept.

"This idea of pooling our produce and bringing our crops straight to the market is good. I think we'll make good profit," Manapat said.

It used to be that traders make the rounds of their village, buy their produce or finance the farming for the planting season. Prices, under that setup, are much lower, giving less income to farmers, he said.

Regular trade fair

Pelayo said the fair would be held on a monthly basis and eventually on a weekly basis. The aim is to cater to the 34,000 employees in Clark's almost 400 enterprises.

Clark Development Corp. president Antonio Ng supported the project, taking it as not only a support to farmers but also to workers looking for healthy food.

The weeks ahead, said Pelayo, are opportunities for farmers to understand direct marketing.

On the same day, Virgilio Mangiliman filled dozens of tubs with 273 kg of *tilapia*, *hito* (catfish) and *dalag* (mudfish) grown in his village of Mandasig.

The 55-year-old fishpond operator had been in the business for 15 years but said this was the first time he joined such a fair.

"This is a big help to us. I got to earn more," Mangiliman said as buyers swarmed his stall.

Buro (fermented rice with fish) in bottles was what Resty Balagtas put on sale at the fair.

Balagtas, a fisherman from Barangay San Agustin, ventured into buro-making five years ago to raise more money for the schooling of his 11 children. He learned the ways of making the famous vegetable dip from his aunt, Natividad Balagtas. His buro is more smooth and sour. The technique, he said, is in fermenting the rice for more than 15 days and pressing it hard to squeeze the juice out.

The Kilusan ng Kababaihan para sa Kabuhayan (KKK), which has one of the biggest booths at the fair, gave Balagtas space to sell his foodstuff.

KKK made quick cash from the dishwashing liquid, peanut butter, achara and polvoron made by its members, among them some displaced "jueteng" collectors, said KKK organizer Lanie Pelayo, the wife of the mayor.

Rice, which has yet to be harvested, was not among the produce that were offered in the fair. But Candaba's sweet watermelon as well as atis and pineapple were top sellers.

Paper trail

Corporate Securites Info
Raul Palabrica

LIKE taxes, there is no escaping by private companies of their duty to submit periodic reports on their operations to the Securities and Exchange Commission and whatever agency exercises supervisory authority over them.

Regardless of their line of business, the approximately 500,000 corporations in the country (of which 250,000, more or less, are active) are obliged to file yearly with the SEC their General Information Sheet and financial statements.

The information sheet is due within 30 days from the holding of the annual stockholders meeting, while the financial statements should be submitted not later than 120 days from the end of the corporation's fiscal year.

Failure to submit these documents on time will give rise to the imposition of fines that are computed on a daily basis. In typical Filipino syndrome of "beating the deadline," the queue for these filings lengthens as the last day nears.

Through these reports, the government regulatory agencies can determine whether the companies are operating within their authorized parameters, are dealing fairly with their shareholders and, most importantly, paying the right taxes.

The reportorial obligation becomes stricter if the companies sell securities or "shares, participation or interests in a corporation or in a commercial enterprise or profit-making venture and evidenced by a certificate, contract, instrument, whether written or electronic in character."

Securities

These include, among others, shares of stock, debentures, asset-backed securities, derivatives, and proprietary or nonproprietary membership certificates in corporations.

The common denominator for these products is that they promise to give the buyers profits, commissions or other forms of financial benefits sometime in the future if they purchase their securities.

In the hands of slick sales persons, the unwary or misinformed public can be lured into investing its hard-earned money in worthless securities.

Thus, for issuers of securities, the Securities Regulation Code clearly spells out the facts and figures that should appear in their annual report to the SEC, namely, balance sheet, profit and loss statement, statement of cash flow for the last fiscal year as validated by an independent certified public accountant, and a management discussion and analysis of the results of operation.

These documents should be submitted within 135 days from the end of the company's fiscal year, or such other period that the regulatory agency may prescribe. And once filed, they are available for review by interested parties.

However, if the SEC thinks this yearly ritual is insufficient to keep it promptly and adequately informed about the companies' operation or financial condition, it can require them to submit periodical reports for interim fiscal periods and other relevant documents.

Registration

So there is no mistaking about the law's intent on this matter, the law enumerates the issuers of securities that are covered by this reportorial obligation.

On top of the list are companies that have sold or distributed securities to the public after filing a registration statement with the SEC.

A registration statement is a document that states the purpose for which a company issues its securities to the public. It explains the operations of the issuer, its financial condition and the other information that a reasonably minded investor usually looks for before parting with his money.

The prospective investors can review the registration statement and determine for themselves whether or not to believe the issuer's solicitation and take a risk with their money.

Also obliged to submit the annual reports mentioned earlier are companies whose shares of stocks are listed for trading in the Philippine Stock Exchange or any exchange that may be organized in the future.

To maintain consistency in the monitoring process, whatever reports are submitted by the listed companies to the SEC are required to be similarly filed with the PSE.

Rounding up the list of companies covered by strict reportorial obligations are "public companies," or those (i) with assets of at least P50 million (or such other amount as the SEC may prescribe) and (ii) have 200 or more securities holders, (iii) each of whom hold at least 100 shares of a class of those securities.

Admittedly, some securities issuers may try to foist falsehoods or half-truths in their submissions for selfish reasons. That attempt is fraught with risks though because severe administrative and criminal sanctions await those who may be caught committing that illegal act.

THE SUSTAINABILITY of the street lighting project led to the computerization of Davao City's 911 system, the only one of its kind in the country, using Davao Light's electric poles.

Crime dropped when streets were lit

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BARANGAY 22C Piapi along Quezon Boulevard in Davao City had one of the highest crime rates in 1996.

Crime lurked on every corner of its dark streets, with about three incidents reported to the police each month.

But just three months from the installation of street lights, through the partnership between the local government and the Aboitiz group's Davao Light and Power Co., crime went down 10 percent.

Policemen from the barangay said the street lights made it easier for them to respond to calls for help, especially from residents living in previously unlit areas.

A similar drop in the crime rate was seen in other barangays covered by Davao Light's street lighting program, thus, burnishing Davao City's image as a secure, world-class city.

And the additional lights helped Davao Light, the country's third biggest privately owned utility, as well.

"The community benefits from safer, well-lit streets and less crime. Davao Light, in providing electric power, likewise benefits," said Antonio Aboitiz during the recently concluded conference of the League of Corporate Foundations.

"So while the community continues to benefit from the project, it assists in the sustainability of the project at the same time. A safer city leads to economic growth and economic growth means that a utility company also grows," Aboitiz added.

He also said the partnership between Davao Light and the local government demonstrated how the Aboitiz group uses its strengths to partner with the community in projects that help all institutions involved.

"In planning our corporate social responsibility programs, we not only make sure that the interests of all our stakeholders are considered, but are also leveraged with our core business competencies or strengths," he said.

"This has been an ideal way to strengthen the partnership between the communities and the business enterprise," Aboitiz added.

Davao Light has donated more than 33,000 sets of street lights to the city. Sodium bulbs were used as these were more durable than traditional fluorescent lamps and bright enough to be seen even during foggy nights.

Encouraged by the drop in the crime rate in the pilot areas, Davao Light and the Davao City local government extended the lighting program to include the most remote areas of the city.

Since then, almost all barangays have been provided street lights.

Davao Light provided technical assistance on top of the sodium lamps, using employee volunteers and casual staff, while the local government is in charge of maintaining the system. It is also responsible for paying the electric bills to Davao Light.

The bills went up since the program started, not only because of the street light consumption, but with the increased economic activity as the additional lights allowed establishments to open longer. Many businesses have also sprouted due to the improved peace and order.

Aboitiz said the sustainability of the street lighting project led to the computerization of Davao City's 911 system, the only one of its kind in the country, using Davao Light's electric poles.

He said the 911 system further assists the police in bringing down criminality and improving the emergency response time.

The Davao street light program is just one way by which the Aboitiz group marries its business interests with the desire to help the community where it operates.

In Tarlac, Fil-Am Foods Inc., the Aboitiz group's feed milling company, assists farmers to increase corn production by establishing cooperatives and providing irrigation pumps.

It is in Fil-Am's interest to increase production as corn is the main ingredient in the manufacturing of its feeds.

The farmers increase their income, and Fil-Am Foods increases its production.

In Benguet where the Aboitiz group operates hydroelectric plants, the group provides fruit-bearing tree seedlings to protect the watershed and preserve the water resources.

"The Aboitiz group believes that giving to communities and helping uplift their standards of living has long lasting rewards, not only for the community but the companies as well," Aboitiz said.

For Aboitiz, there is a business case to helping others.

"Corporate social responsibility is not just about doing the right thing ... It is an effort that, applied well and sustained over the long term, plainly makes good business sense," Aboitiz said.

"Doing the right thing and pursuing greater shareholder value, is, in the end, exactly the same. It is this happy congruence of interests that gives corporate social responsibility the powerful potential to change things for the better," he added.

BBC NEWS anchor Rico Hizon is the 2005 Outstanding Filipino in Singapore. Hizon, who has been a resident in the city-state for the past seven years, was given the recognition for his achievements as a professional international broadcaster and his commitment to the promotion of Philippine arts and culture and the pursuit of socio-civic projects for the benefit of Filipinos in Singapore.

The distinction, the first time it has been given to Filipinos in Singapore, was awarded by Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen Anota during the 107th Philippine Independence Day Festivities.

MOVEMENTS

GM Philippines has new president

GENERAL Motors Automobiles Philippines (GM), the domestic subsidiary of the world's largest automaker, announced the appointment of Francis Burdett as president and general manager of the company.

In his speech, GM's executive director for Asean operations William Botwick said the appointment of Burdett will help GM Automobiles Philippines continue its success and take it up to another level. Botwick also cited outgoing president James Lim for his outstanding work in running the company and building the Chevrolet brand in the country.

Before assuming the top post at GM Automobiles Philippines, Burdett had a long and outstanding service record with Holden New Zealand. He was Holden New Zealand's chief finance officer prior to accepting his new role and has had extensive experience in finance, sales and marketing, and supply chain management.

Burdett initiated the introduction of new processes to improve management control of the Holden business in New Zealand. He tapped market trends for LCV, focused sales and marketing personnel on the opportunity, developed forecasts and ordered volume to "grow the business." His multifunctional skills assisted in the development and sales growth of the company.

Botwick concluded his speech by saying that GM Automobiles Philippines is firmly committed to its strategic vision of growing its market share in the local automotive market.

"As the world's market leader for more than seven decades, we have tremendous global capabilities, strong products and brands which help us create value. We are using these and other competitive strengths to see this vision to its full realization," Botwick said.

UPS Capital announces new rep

UPS Capital, the financial services subsidiary of UPS, recently announced its new representative in the Philippines as part of its strategy to help local companies purchase imported equipment and inventory.

UPS Capital Business Credit, a unit of UPS Capital, is now utilizing the services of Inter-Pacific Capital Corp., a private company established in 1987 as a Philippine corporation, as its local representative.

Working with the Export-Import Bank of the United States, UPS Capital Business Credit provides loans to eligible Philippine companies to finance the purchase of equipment and inventory from the United States. UPS Capital's relationships with export credit agencies in countries such as Germany, Canada and Norway provides opportunities for Phillippine companies to finance purchases from those countries as well.

"Since 1996, we have facilitated transactions for Philippine companies totaling more than $60 million. UPS' relationship with Inter-Pacific Capital Corp., in addition to the presence of our intra-Asia hub in the Philippines, is evidence of our commitment to this important Asian market," said Bob Bernabucci, president of UPS Capital. "Our goal at UPS is to help businesses in the Philippines to compete internationally by helping them synchronize the movement of goods, information and funds associated with global trade."

CCAP conducts new officers

THE COLD Chain Association of the Philippines Inc. (CCAP) recently inducted into office its new set of officers and directors during its 3rd annual general membership meeting and training conference.. The new CCAP board is comprised of Anthony S. Dizon of Koldstor Centre Philippines, president; Elmer Francisco U. Sarmiento of Royal Cargo Combined Logistics, vice president; Jose Lim Jr. of Jentec DC Corp., secretary/treasurer; Crispin G. Aquino of Express Commissary Inc., Noli G. Cruz of HAVI Food Services Philippines, Bonifacio Y. Mabanta of Robinsons Supermarkets, Flemming Hansen of ScanAsia Overseas, Jerry R. Tugade of Filipinas ThermoKing and Angelito F. Ignacio of Polar Bear Freezing and Storage Corp. as directors.

Under its activity program for 2005-2006, CCAP intends to further enhance its participation in policy formulation and program development for the cold chain industry, as well as strengthening its advocacy and training capabilities through the absorption of new information and technologies from its international affiliates such as WFLO and IARW.

Additionally, CCAP will intensify its membership development drive to ensure equitable representation of all sectors involved in the supply chain of perishable food products.

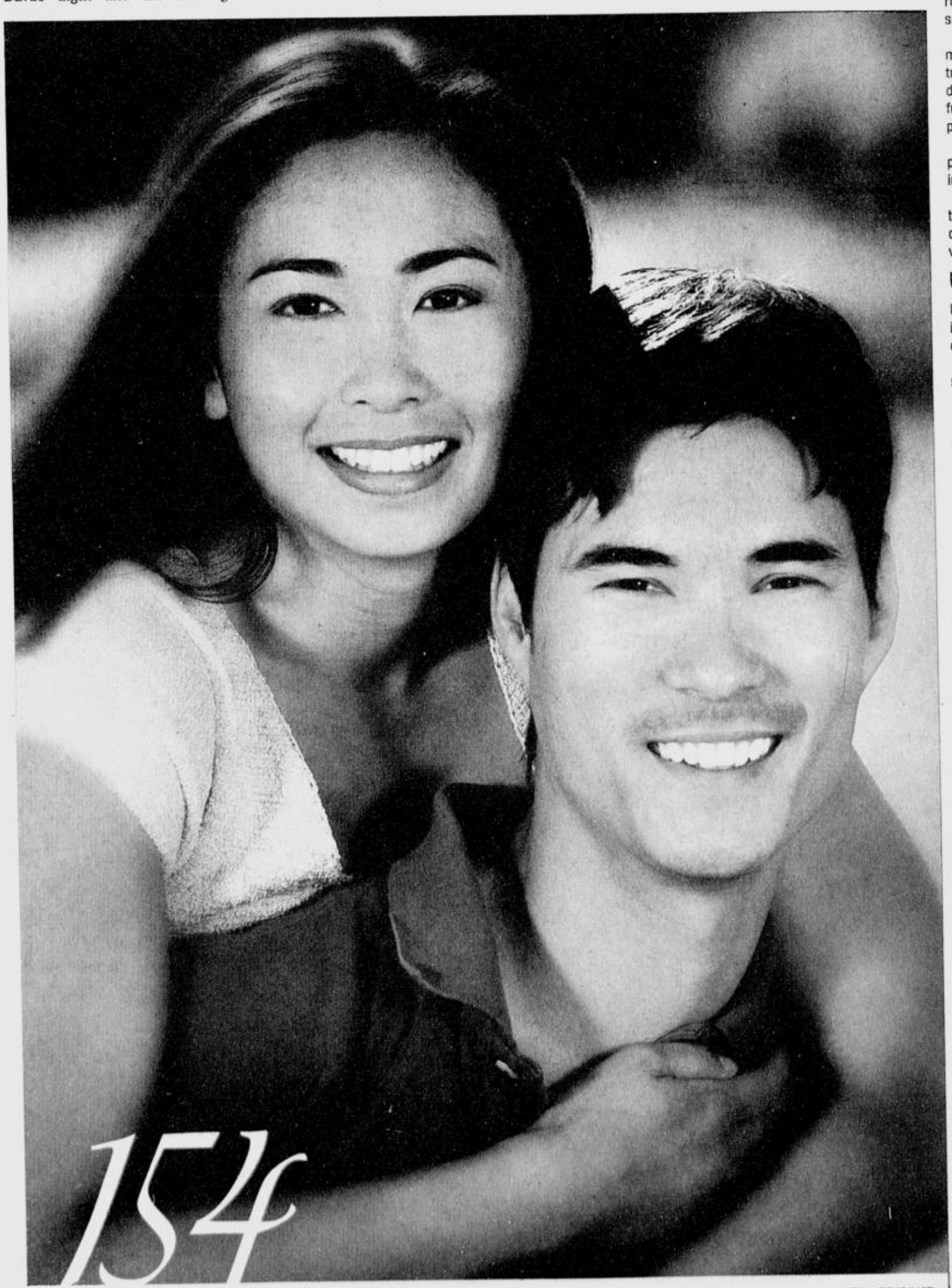
DHL Express has new sales manager

DHL, the world's leading express and logistics company, has announced the appointment of Soeren Ibsen as national sales manager for the Philippines. He will be responsible for growing DHL's market share and revenue in the country.

Prior to joining DHL Express Philippines, Ibsen was the sales development manager for Asia Pacific in DHL Express' regional office in Singapore. In his previous portfolio, he developed regionwide sales programs on customer retention and cross selling, with multimillion-euro targets. He also served as the sales improvement manager for DHL Express in the United Kingdom.

"Soeren Ibsen's experience and track record in DHL will be invaluable as we strengthen our position in the Philippine market," DHL express country manager Larry Llamzon noted. "With his background and success in regional revenue growth initiatives, we look forward to his contribution to our business growth in the Philippines."

Ibsen, who is married and has two children, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Economics and Marketing from Odense University, Denmark, and an MBA in General Management from Henley Management College in London, UK.



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PHILIPS LIGHTS UP GAWAD KALINGA VILLAGE
President Macapagal-Arroyo switches on the newly installed lights at the Gawad Kalinga Brookside Village in Quezon City during the launch of Philips' "Light is Hope" project. The project provides energy efficient lighting solutions to selected villages in the country in partnership with Gawad Kalinga, the now popular low-cost housing movement aimed at making the Philippines slum-free by housing 700,000 families within a seven-year period. Philips has initially committed to build 50 homes in Calamba, Laguna, to be called Gawad Kalinga Philips Village. With the president in the photo are Philips president Med Mateo (left), Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla, and respected members of the community.

RP firm wins as region's best in ad post-production competition

OPTIMA Digital, the No. 1 and only state-of-the-art, high-end post-production facility in Manila, scored another big point for Filipino creativity and technical capability in the recently held Asia Image Apollo Awards in Singapore.

Winning "Best in Visual Effects" for its Ovaltine TV commercial entitled "Georgia," Optima Digital bested 10 other entries from the region in the Best Effects under $15,000 category with its lone short-listed entry and emerged the regional winner in end June. The Philippines, represented by Optima, edged out Malaysia and India in the finals of the competition.

Organized on a regional scale, the Apollo Awards has set the highest competitive standards in the field and recognizes technical and craft excellence in advertising, broadcast, production and post-production in the Asia-Pacific region. Participated in by entries from production and post-production houses in India, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and the Philippines, 637 entries from 15 countries were entered this year.

"Project Georgia" is a unique commercial that depicts the stressful urgencies of everyday life in the form of moving, bobbing heads— pesky figures that pop out from nowhere to "harass" the lead lady talent with their various demands. The concept called for the pesky figures to have huge, oversized heads on seemingly miniature bodies. Optima used Discreet Flame technology to achieve the effects.

OPTIMA Digital wins "Best in Visual Effects" for its Ovaltine TV commercial entitled "Georgia."

Optima Digital's creative services head Stephen Luke Sy received the award in Singapore on behalf of the post house. Optima, which has been acclaimed a number of times in the industry with Ad Congress and Creative Guild Awards for technical excellence, leads local post houses in HD technology.

Visayan provinces among those with high market potential

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Three Visayan provinces—Cebu, Negros Occidental and Iloilo—made it to the top 10 Philippine provinces with high market potential, according to a study of the School of Economics of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The study, dubbed "Boomtowns and Gloomtowns (An Index of Marketing Potential)," which placed Laguna on the top spot, had Cebu in fourth place, Negros Occidental in sixth and Iloilo in 10th place in the ranking of 77 provinces as of June 2005.

Conducted by Cid Terosa of the School of Economics Urban Strategies Group, the study measured the market potential of the country's 77 provinces by establishing five dimensions. These are: market size, 30 percent; market consumption capacity and intensity, 20 percent; market growth rate, 15 percent; and market attractiveness, 15 percent.

Also, indicators were chosen and used to construct an index for each dimension. The indexes of the five dimensions were added to form a composite index of market potential.

Considered as boomtowns, the provinces with the 10 highest index of market potential as of June 2005 are: Laguna, 0.7059; Cavite, 0.6884; Rizal, 0.6548; Cebu, 0.6430; Bulacan, 0.5581; Negros Occidental, 0.5544; Pampanga, 0.5300; Batangas, 0.4929; Misamis Oriental, 0.4443; and Iloilo, 0.4385.

According to the study, the cities of Bacolod and Iloilo are expected to hog the attention of businessmen and investors in Western Visayas.

In terms of regional market potential, Negros Occidental outshone Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Guimaras and Antique, the study showed.

Terosa said market potential is one of the key indicators that businessmen and investors normally keep track of. It is defined as the size or value of the total market should all those who are willing and able to buy various products actually purchase them. Hence, the market potential refers to the upper level of market demand, he said.

"Since market potential is an important criterion for business location and investment decisions, the creation of an index potential is a valuable task," Terosa said.

Of the high-potential provinces, Laguna topped the field in terms of market attractiveness and market and commercial infrastructure while Cavite closely followed.

Both Laguna and Cavite ranked among the top 10 in terms of market size and market consumption capacity and intensity. Rizal had the highest market consumption and intensity index while Bulacan, the highest market size index.

The study noted that although Cebu did not record the highest index in any of the five dimensions, it consistently ranked among the top 10 in market size, market consumption capacity and intensity, and market and commercial infrastructure.

On the other hand, the top 10 "gloom towns" or low-potential provinces are: Apayao, 0.1147; Sulu, 0.1346; Kalinga, 0.1374; Lanao del Sur, 0.1388; Basilan, 0.1421; Tawi-tawi, 0.1435; Batanes, 0.1505; Ifugao, 0.1559; Sultan Kudarat, 0.1584; and Biliran, 0.1610.

Filipino finalist in global search for Int'l Young Design Entrepreneur

JONATHAN "Jay" Aldeguer, president of Islands Souvenirs, was recently named by the British Council as Philippine candidate to the global search for International Young Design Entrepreneur of the Year (IYDEY), which culminates in the UK this September as the featured event at 100% Design, London's biggest architecture and interiors product fair.

Aldeguer bested a number of sterling nominees from the Philippines, aged 25-35 years old, who were all established designers in their respective fields. The judging panel gathered by the British Council concurred that despite being a "frustrated artist," Aldeguer's character, drive and business acumen enabled him to demonstrate that he can indeed promote Filipino design in a commercial context.

The success of Islands Souvenirs is manifested in its trademark design which incorporates strong graphic identity and quality workmanship. Capturing the essence of every Philippine destination with its tropical and festive spirit, not just through its products but in the feel of its numerous store outlets, the company has branched out to encompass international tourist destinations like Singapore, Okinawa, Macau and San Francisco. Aldeguer's track record in building up Islands Souvenirs as a premier product brand spoke well of his current initiatives to boost tourism and the overall identity standards for Cebu under his peripheral companies Cebu TV 28 and Destinations Media, both of which feature cutting-edge creativity of Cebuano artists.

The IYDEY program will bring Aldeguer to Glasgow and London, which are the UK's foremost centers of creativity. There, he will establish a network of contacts among UK designers, designled retailers and manufacturers, publishers and cultural institutions active in the procurement of design and architecture. At the formal awarding ceremony held on July 15 capping the British Council's 25th Anniversary Design Showcase, Aldeguer was bestowed a ceremonial tartan of the Scottish Black Watch regiment, embellished by a Celtic pin symbolizing continuity.

Participation in 100% Design will allow Aldeguer to promote the Philippine design scene even further. At the British Council stand, he will exhibit the "Pigalle" armchair by fellow Cebuano Kenneth Cobonpue as his example of an innovative Filipino design that deserves to reach the global market. Cobonpue attracted the attention of the British Council's creative industries unit last year as the youngest member of Movement 8.

Aldeguer will compete against equally impressive candidates from Argentina, India, Lebanon, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Thailand. The IYDEY search underscores the British Council's thrust of promoting the creative industries in transitional economies, while creating opportunity for people worldwide.

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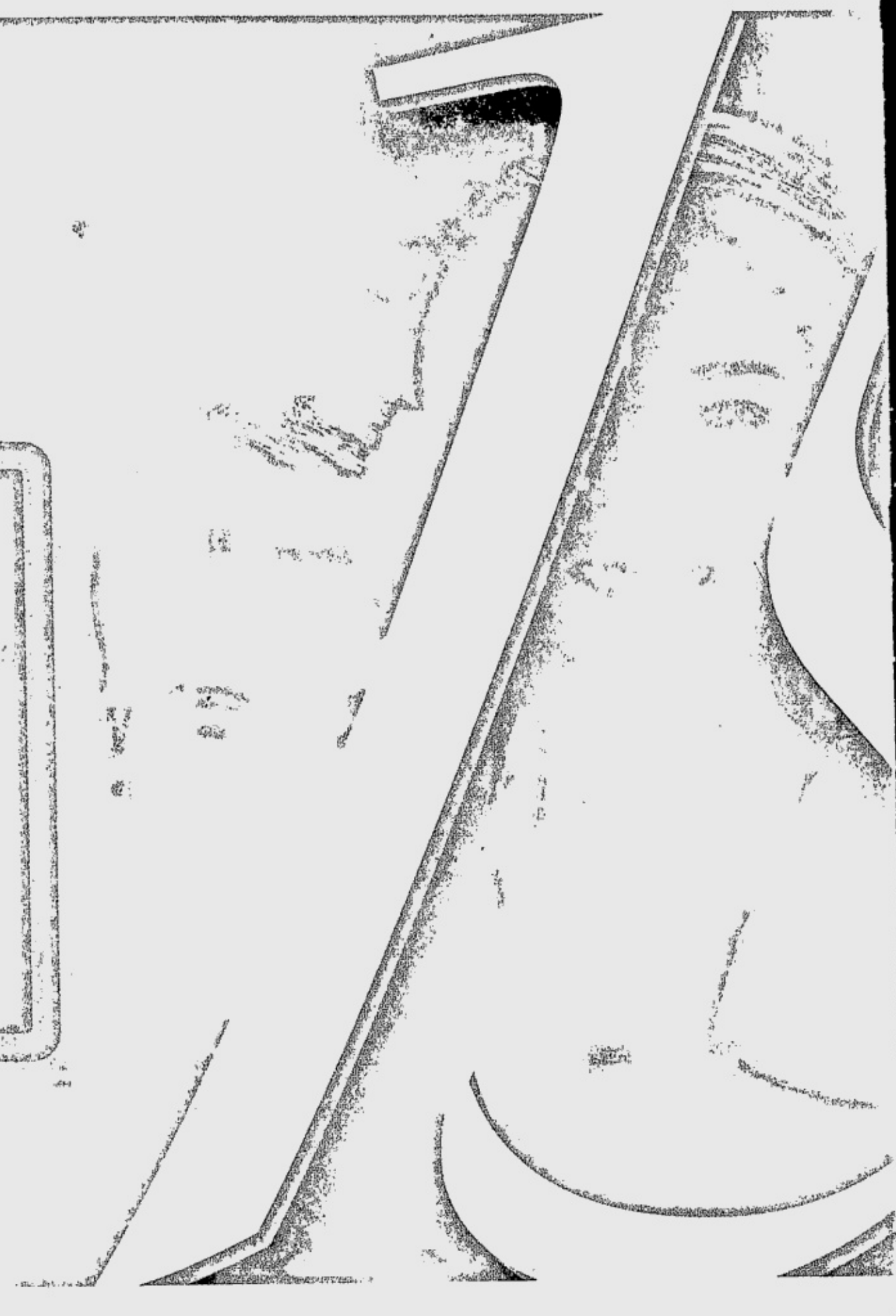


Y E A

OF MAKING BA

For the 154 years of letting us deposit a smile on your face, allowing us to fund your peace of mind... we, at BPI, would like to thank you one hundred fifty-four-fol

ENJOY PROMO PREMIUM OF 0.154% ON SELECTED TIME DEPOSIT PRODUCTS

Offer #1: Auto Renew Time Deposit. Open a 182-day auto renew Time Deposit with a single minimum placement amount of P154,000 and get a 0.154% promo premium over the regular rates.

Offer #2: Time Deposit Plus Tax-Free. Open a five-year, tax-free Time Deposit with quarterly re-pricing with a minimum single placement amount of P154,000 and get a 0.154% promo premium over the regular rates.

Offer #3: BPI Family Savings Bank (BFSB) Plan Ahead Time Deposit. Open a BPI Family Savings Bank Plan Ahead five-year Time Deposit with a minimum placement of P154,000 and get a rate of 9.0% fixed for five years.

Additionally, if the placement amount in the BPI Family Savings Bank Plan Ahead Time Deposit is at least P200,000, you are eligible to join the "Dream of Tomorrow, Dream of Disney" promo under DTI-NCR Permit #1444, Series of 2005 with promo period from June 1 to November 30, 2005. See "Dream of Tomorrow, Dream of Disney" promo flyer for details.

GET A CHANCE TO WIN FREE SHOPPING MONEY WITH BPI CREDIT CARDS

Apply now for your BPI Express Credit Card within the promo period. Every application received and subsequently approved entitles you to a computer-generated raffle entry. You can be one of the 154 winners that will each receive P1,540 shopping money, which will be credited to your credit card account.

AVAIL OF 15.4% DISCOUNT ON EXPRESS CASH CARD & EXPRESS MONEY ORDER CARD PROCESSING FEES

Get an Express Cash card or Express Money Order card within the promo period and make a minimum purchase transaction amount of P500 within 15 days from date of card issuance. You will receive a 15.4% rebate on your processing fee, which will be credited to your prepaid card on or before Sept. 30, 2005.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DISCOUNTS ON AUTO AND HOUSING LOAN RATES

- **BPI Family Savings Bank (BFSB) Drive Your Dream Auto Loan**
  Drive home your brand new car. Apply for a **BFSB Drive Your Dream Auto Loan** this August and get a 0.154% discount across all published rates.***

  Additionally, if your loan amount is at least P400,000, you are also eligible to join the "Luggage-2-Go" promo under DTI-NCR Permit #4023, Series of 2005 with promo period from July 8 to Sept. 30, 2005. See "Luggage-2-Go" promo flyer for details.

  *** excludes loans on Toyota vehicles

- **BPI Family Savings Bank (BFSB) Build Your Dream Housing Loan**
  Start building your dream house. Apply for a **BFSB Build Your Dream Housin** for your housing loan, including Property Equity Loan.

GET A CHANCE TO WIN P154,000 CASH WHEN YOU INVEST IN BPI UITF

Invest in BPI's **Unit Investment Trust Fund** or **Individual Retirement Accou** you get one (1) computer-generated raffle entry. You could be one of the three (3) lu will each receive P15,400. Prizes will be credited to your BPI Credit Card account or

TAKE HOME FREE SM GIFT CERTIFICATES WITH BPI EXPRESS DOLLAR P

Grow your dollars while protecting yourself and your loved ones with **Express Dol** the promo period and receive P4,000 worth of SM gift certificates for free.

CATCH DISCOUNTS IN PROPERTY SALES

Choose and purchase from our selected list of properties during the promo period an

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR CORPORATE ACCOUNTS IN BPI'S CORPORATE PI

Build up the balances of your company's existing BPI deposit accounts and get a The higher the balance, the more raffle entries earned, the greater chances of winn

Thank you for taking us this far, and fo

dreams and invest in your d. Starting with these...

g Loan this August and get a 0.154% discount across all published rates

R IRA
nt and for every fund value increase of P154,000 during the promo period, ky winners who will each receive P154,000. Another set of ten (10) winners iven Express Cash card. For individual clients only.

OTECTOR-5
ar Protector-5. Get a policy with a minimum premium of $15,000 during

l get a 15.4% discount on the selling price.

KS PROMO
hance to win an Audio Visual, Workstation, Entertainment or Café Suite. ng. Exclusive to BPI Corporate Banking clients.

r allowing us to take you further

Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center.
For more information, call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

154 years of making banking history

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1816, Series of 2005.
Promo Period: August 1 to 31, 2005.
See flyers for details.

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

The Leader in Self-Financed and Personalized Installment Sales

An exciting rainy-day promo from ESLA

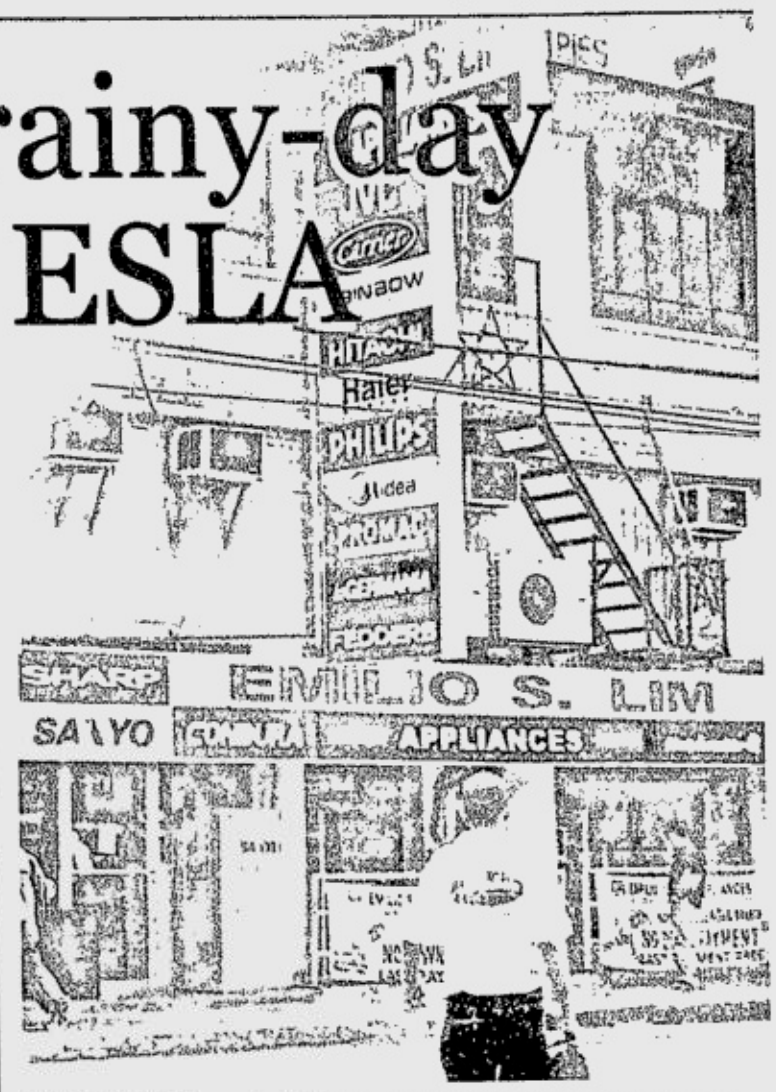
THERE'S something to look forward to this rainy season. And we're talking here of some last-minute vacation hitch.

Emilio S. Lim Appliances, the pioneer in appliance installment scheme, is giving away vacation packages to a farm in Batangas and to the summer capital Baguio City.

Twelve families will be spending two days and three nights in the fabulous locations enjoying the countryside, the fun activities outdoors, the amenities and other delights of an ideal vacation.

Customers who purchase appliances from ESLA from Aug. 1

AN EXCITING/ B3-7



THE BUENDIA branch at 49 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (near Mercury Drug Dian Branch), Makati, will have its blessing today.

ESLA will also be giving away 1,000 desk fans in all its 40 stores

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

The Leader in Self-Financed and Personalized Installment Sales

38th Anniversary Promotion

BAGYO SA AGOSTO BAKASYON MO SAGOT KO !

MECHANICS

1. Promo period August 01 - 31, 2005.
2. For every Php2,000 00 purchase of ESLA products either in cash or installment, customer is entitled to one raffle coupon

   Example: Cash Price of refrigerator / LCP of Washing machine

Amount	Raffle coupon
10,500 00	5
6,500 00	3

   Raffle coupons will be released as follows:
   For CASH Sales — upon full payment of cash price
   For INSTALLMENT Sales — upon approval and delivery of unit purchased and full payment of required deposit or advanced payment
3. Customer shall fill up raffle coupon with his / her complete name, address, telephone number (if any), affix his/her signature and drop at drop boxes located inside the store where the purchase was made
4. Prizes at stake are

   1st Prize Six (6) winners *Family Vacation Package to ESLA Garden Villa in Green Valley, Baguio Baguio City: (each worth Php 30 000 00) (2 adults and 2 child 12 years old and below**) inclusive of the following:
   Roundtrip Transportation
   3 days and 2 nights accommodations
   2 breakfasts,2 lunches, 2 dinners & 3 snacks
   Duckpin bowling for 8 games
   2 hours use of pingpong or basketball
   **with proof (birth certificate or baptismal certificate)

   2nd Prize Six (6) winners Family Vacation Package to ESLA Farm in Balete, Batangas City (each worth Php 25 000 00) (2 adults and 2 child 12 years old and below**) inclusive of the following:
   Roundtrip Transportation
   3 days and 2 nights accommodations
   2 breakfasts,2 lunches , 2 dinners & 3 snacks
   Free use of the swimming pool
   Free use of jet ski (maximum of 4 hours per family) for the duration of their stay
   **with proof (birth certificate or baptismal certificate)

   Consolation Prize 1000 winners of Union SD-388 , 388mm electric fans
5. The 1000 pieces of ESLA desk fans will be raffled off simultaneously on September 01, 2005 at each of our 40 stores at 5 30 p.m
6. Deadline of submission of entries is on August 31, 2005 closing of stores.
7. A winner can only win once in the raffle of the consolation prizes but still qualifies on the grand raffle. (if name is drawn twice for the family vacation package, winner will get the prize of greater value)
8. All raffle boxes with the raffle stubs will be gathered by the (5) Marketing Supervisors assigned in the different areas and brought to the designated raffle place as listed below for the raffle of the Family Vacation Package. Raffle date of Family Vacation Package is on September 10, 2005 at 5 30 p.m.

Place of Raffle	Branches included in the Raffle	VACATION PACKAGE: Baguio	Batangas
Farmer's Plaza Branch	Farmer's Plaza, Bacoor, Laguna, Nova Proper, Lagro, Kalentong, Sta. Maria, San Jose del Monte	1	1
Buendia Avenue Branch	Buendia, Imus Cavite, San Pedro, San Pablo Laguna, Tanauan, Lipa Batangas, Lucena Quezon	1	1
Marikina 1 Branch	Marikina 1, Marikina 2, Antipolo, Marcos Hway, Taytay, Taytay, Fairview, Pasig 1, Pasig 2	2	2
Alabang Metropolis Branch	Alabang Metropolis, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Dasmariñas 1 & 2, GMA Cavite, Rosario Cavite	1	1
Caloocan Sangandaan Branch	Caloocan Sangandaan, Post, Meycauayan, Baliuag, Plaridel, Apalit, Sta. San Fernando, Batangas Balayan	1	1
		6	6

9. Non-winning raffle coupons of the electric fan raffle will automatically qualify for the raffle draw for the twelve (12) family vacation packages
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail
11. In claiming prizes, winners must show valid ID, registered mail and proof of purchase such as official receipt and delivery receipt Redemption period is 90 days from receipt of notification
12. Winners of the Family Vacation Package must coordinate with ESLA LAND c/o Ms. Maly Villanueva at 071-5740 or 071-5768 (Holidays are not included) Major prizes can be claimed at the ESLA branches where the major prize raffle was drawn Consolation prizes may be redeemed in the ESLA branches where name was drawn
13. All prizes are transferable but NOT CONVERTIBLE TO CASH

Place of Raffle	Branches included in the Raffle
Farmer's Plaza Branch	Farmer's Plaza, Bacoor, Laguna, Nova Proper, Lagro, Kalentong, Sta. Maria, San Jose del Monte
Buendia Avenue Branch	Buendia, Imus Cavite, San Pedro, San Pablo Laguna, Tanauan, Lipa Batangas, Lucena Quezon
Marikina 1 Branch	Marikina 1, Marikina 2, Antipolo, Marcos Hway, Taytay, Taytay, Fairview, Pasig 1, Pasig 2
Alabang Metropolis Branch	Alabang Metropolis, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Dasmariñas 1 & 2, GMA Cavite, Rosario Cavite
Caloocan Sangandaan Branch	Caloocan Sangandaan, Post, Meycauayan, Baliuag, Plaridel, Apalit, Sta. San Fernando, Batangas Balayan

14. Taxes are to be shouldered by ESLA
15. Employees of Esla and its subsidiaries including its agencies (advertising, security, manpower etc) suppliers including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this raffle promo

An exciting rainy-day promo from ESLA

From page B3-6

to 31 will be entitled to raffle tickets for the "Bagyo sa Agosto, Bakasyon Mo Sagot Ko" promotion.

ESLA is currently celebrating its 38th year. Roberto Jaime Lim of ESLA says the store is doing the current promotion to give thanks to loyal patrons and customers.

Lim's father Emilio put up the very first ESLA store 38 years ago in Buendia Avenue in Makati City. ESLA was the first appliance store to offer appliances on installment basis, according to Lim.

"There were no credit cards then offering these installments. We were the first to introduce a scheme that allowed customers to have access to appliances without giving out so much cash."

Also, during the whole month of August, ESLA will also be giving away 1,000 desk fans in all its 40 stores.

ESLA has always been aware of the needs of its customers, so the store has established in-house promotions to give added value and services to these people.

Cash rebates on installment schemes allows for the enjoyment of a rebate by a customer which he or she can use on a future purchase.

If a customer paid his or her appliance installment schedules on time, say for a 12-month period, he or she can avail himself or herself of the last payment for free. Discounts can also be availed of by a customer if he or she pays his or her dues to the store rather than through the collector. Zero percent interest is also being offered on appliance installments that can be paid in six months.

In addition to these myriad schemes to help customers pay easily, ESLA is now introducing promotions that will help him or her purchase high-ticket items such as plasma TVs. Lim says currently in the works is a scheme that will allow for a downpayment subsidy by suppliers for such appliances. "This will help our customers afford the high-end products," Lim says.

Lim says the store's major clients are those belonging to the "masa" or those who don't really have access to credit cards. "We have so many old customers and the reason we stayed this long is the repeat customers. Through time, we have improved our services and we pass on to customers the savings we've had through our innovation."

Lim says the store's major clients are those belonging to the 'masa', or those who don't really have access to credit cards.

As a bonus, ESLA is giving away a free gift to all repeat customers buying on installment ranging from P4,000 and above.

12 families will be spending two days and three nights in the fabulous locations enjoying the countryside, the fun activities outdoors, the amenities and other delights of an ideal vacation.

38
Here's a Toast to
EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES
on its 38th Anniversary
Concepcion Industries is proud to have been
Emilio S. Lim Appliances'
partner in catering to Filipinos appliances
that are made to last,
and are in touch with tomorrow. Looking forward to
many more decades of succesful partnership with you.
CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES
The Company that brings you
Kelvinator
CONDURA
TOSHIBA
IN TOUCH WITH TMOROW

HITACHI CONGRATULATES EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES (ESLA)
ON ITS 38TH ANNIVERSARY

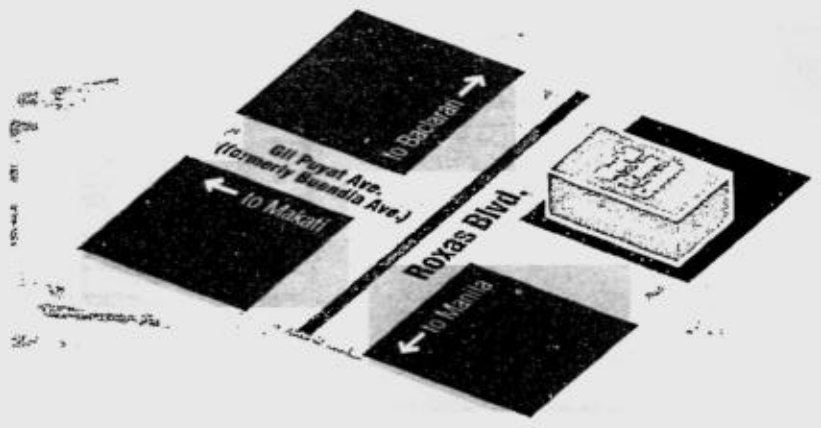
CLEARLY MADE EVEN BETTER
The new Hitachi 2005 series Air Conditioners, Washing Machines and Rerfrigerators with the revolutionary **Nano Titanium Filter** and **Triple-Change System** paves the way for better innovations in core technology, comfort and cleanliness.
Nano Titanium
Destroy and effectively kills 99.9% of harmful bacteria like colonbicillus eliminating viruses and hypersensitive allergy.
3-Change
The HITACHI Triple Change System, a combination of comfort, cleanliness and core technology that provides only the BEST in living standards.
HITACHI
Inspire the Next
HITACHI Air Conditioning Products (Phils.), Inc. Tel: (632) 741-6200 • (632) 732-9801 to 02

Passion

Be ready for the most exhilarating motorshow ever!

THE WORLD OF TOYOTA

Inspire Create Innovate



See you at the World Trade Center on August 12 to 19.

Be part of this grand extravaganza that is Toyota's way of celebrating its 17th anniversary and thanking all its valued customers for making Toyota Number 1! Be there as Toyota exhibits the concept car of the future, Fine-N, the superfast Toyota F1 race car and the grandest vehicle line-up in the country! A lot more thrilling surprises await you at this one-of-a-kind motorshow! If you think you know what's in store for you, think again!

TOYOTA

One million thanks to you!

One Million Cards and Counting

There's something fascinating about the figure that is 1,000,000

'When we started, we were the lone card company that took a giant leap of faith on the Filipino middle class consumer'

FOR CITIBANK, that number now represents a historic milestone in its local credit cards business. Fifteen years after it began offering credit cards to the Filipino mass market, Citibank marks its one-millionth-card record as it continues to be the preeminent industry leader in providing customers with breakthrough financial products and unparalleled services.

"We are extremely proud and honored with this latest achievement," said Citibank's Country Business Manager for Global Consumer Group Nina Aguas. "This is a clear indication that Citibank is the credit card brand preferred by more Filipinos."

"After issuing 1 million Citibank credit cards and setting a new industry standard, the challenge before us is to produce another million, and we know this is only possible if we continue to introduce innovative products that meet the changing lifestyles of the Filipino consumers," maintained Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank's Cards Business Director.

The Road to One Million

Citibank and the local credit card industry have come a long way from the launching of Citibank MasterCard back in 1990. Back then, credit cards were confined to the upscale market. "We changed the credit card landscape and leveled the playing field," recalled Aguas. By lowering income requirements and allowing flexible payment schemes, Citibank empowered working professionals with this plastic currency.

As the years rolled on, Citibank introduced more winning additions into its roster, like the co-branded credit cards Cathay Pacific Visa and Shell MasterCard. These powerful new cards in turn led the way to new forays in niche marketing with Citibank Visa Platinum, Citibank Clear MasterCard and the Citibank Clear Visa Mini.

Most recently, Citibank redefined the concept of instant rewards through cash rebates with Citibank Cash Back Card and showed that financial convenience and health benefits can come together with the Mercury Drug Citibank Visa.

Side by side the development of card products, Citibank also designs benefits to appeal to a wide range of customers. One of the more popular benefits is the Citibank Rewards program, which gives cardholders the chance to claim gifts, appliances, air miles, shopping and dining certificates or waived annual fees just by using their Citibank credit card for purchases. First offered in 1996, the concept was such a tremendous success that it became the industry benchmark and has since been replicated by other card companies.

Other features of Citibank cards that are embraced by cardholders include the PayLite Installment Plan which offers longer and lighter payment terms, Citibank World Privileges that give Platinum and Gold cardmembers discounts and perks at over 16,000 merchants across 150 countries worldwide, and Citibank 1Bill, a convenient bill payment facility that allows enrollment of a host of utility bills to the Citibank card so the cardholder only has to remember to pay one bill—that of his Citibank credit card.

To date, Citibank offers a dozen credit card variants, each showcasing a distinct set of innovative features and services, while giving cardholders great value for money.

CITIBANK'S Cards Business Group led by Michellina Triwardhany (3rd from right), the team that delivers card innovations to local consumers.

One-Million Thank You

"When we started, we were the lone card company that took a giant leap of faith on the Filipino middle class consumer. Today, the industry has so many players and the market is flooded with a variety of financial products. Yet, Citibank remains a strong leader in large part because of our customers' loyalty," stated Aguas.

And in appreciation, Citibank will say thank you to its cardholders in grand fashion with its "One Million Thanks To You" raffle promotion, wherein five lucky customers will walk away with 1 million Rewards Points.

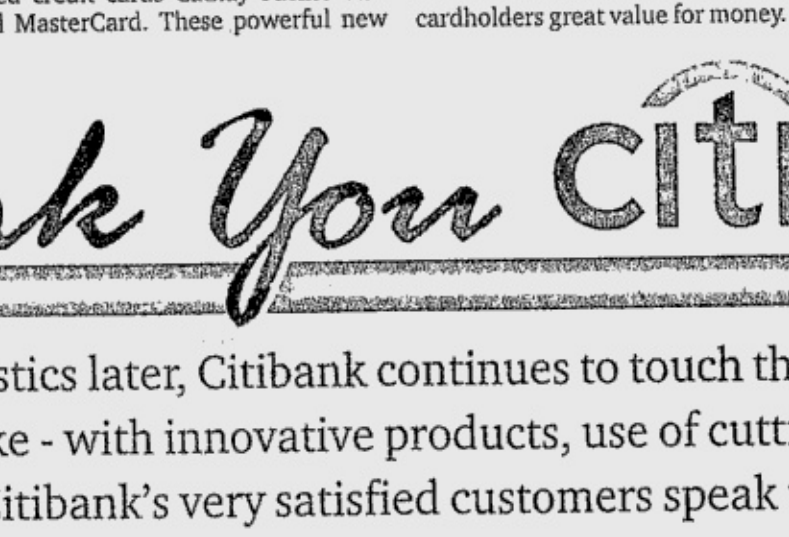
"We want to celebrate our 1 million milestone with our cardholders and what better way than to give them millions of rewards points to spend as they please," said Aguas. "At Citibank, we always put the customer first, and thankfully, they return the favor. This is as much their achievement as it is ours."

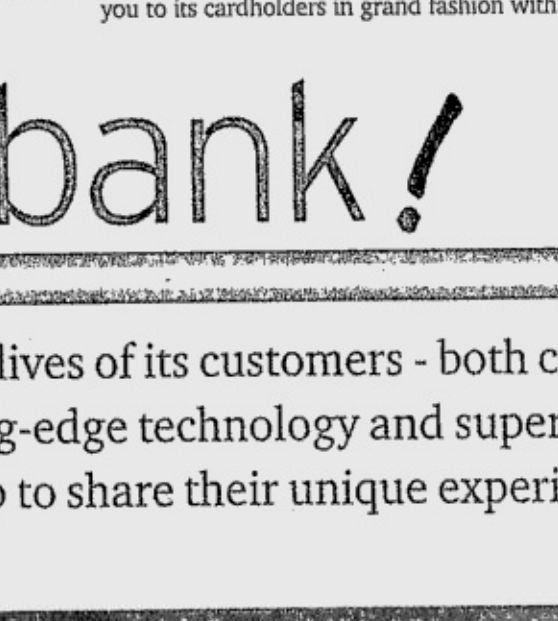
Thank You citibank!

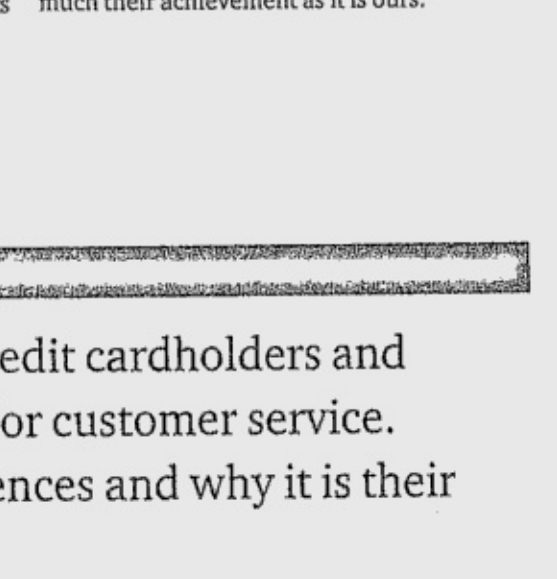
One million plastics later, Citibank continues to touch the lives of its customers - both credit cardholders and bank clients alike - with innovative products, use of cutting-edge technology and superior customer service. Here, a few of Citibank's very satisfied customers speak up to share their unique experiences and why it is their credit card and bank of choice.

COME enrollment season, I don't have to carry cash or issue a check when paying my children's tuition. I just present my Citibank Silver MasterCard and that takes care of it. Citibank is the only credit card accepted in OB Montessori so there's no need for me to carry any other card. Paying with Citibank also means I earn Rewards points! And should I decide later to use PayLite and pay for the school fees over easy payment terms, I'm just glad to know all I have to do is call Citibank and they'll say yes.

- Jeffry L. Cuapiaco with son Sean Patrick and daughter Stephanie
Manager, Construction & Maintenance Team Leader
MERALCO

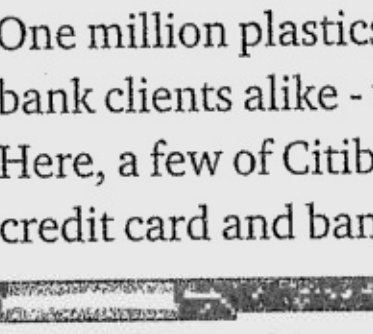






I'VE BEEN carrying Citibank cards for ages and recently applied for another one - the Cash Back card. It's perfect for people like me who never seem to know what to do with rewards points so just give it to me in cash. With Cash Back, I feel like I'm getting a discount on everything, including my utility bills which are all paid through my card with Citibank 1Bill. Now, all I need to do is to remember to pay one bill - my Citibank card and that takes care of all the rest.

- Katrina A. Holigores
Director, Cinematographer, Editor-in-chief, Scoop (out in Oct.)



ONCE in Hong Kong, I accompanied a friend shopping for tennis equipment and to our surprise, Citibank cardholders were being given a generous discount. He ended up asking me to pay for the purchase so we can enjoy the discount and as soon as we got back to Manila, he applied for a Citibank card. It's even better than paying with cash so we've been converts ever since.

- Ricardo C. Velasco
Managing Director
E-MART Pharmacy and Convenience Stores

AS A travel columnist, I'm always hopping onto a plane so packing has become instinctive. I just carry what's essential - and one of the things I cannot do without is my Citibank Gold Visa. Why bother with having a local card and an international card? My Citibank is both - and it's widely accepted here and everywhere else in the world. I especially like the instant recognition that comes with it - plus I get perks, good ones, even abroad just by charging to my Citibank.

- Christine S. Dayrit
Travel Columnist and Executive Vice President, Miladay Jewels

MY CITIBANK card organizes my financial life. I pay all my bills - from my Internet connection to my landline to my mobile phone to my cable plus Meralco and even my gym membership fees - with my Citibank Gold Visa. No need to ask the driver or house help to line up and pay with cash. My statement also serves as my monthly budget tracker and on top of this convenience, I earn Rewards Points which never expire.

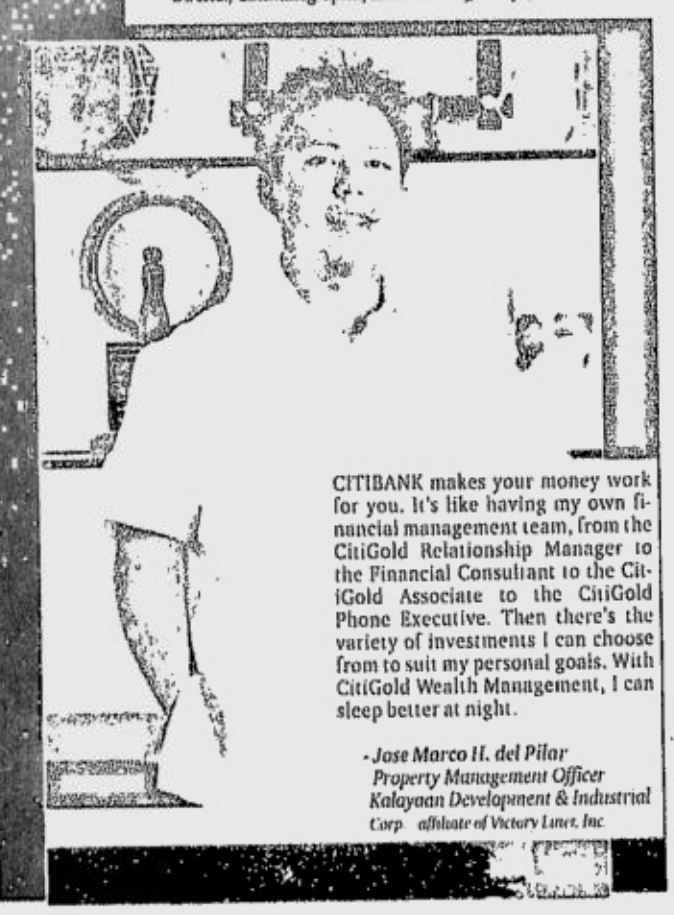
- Jeannie E. Javelosa
Writer, Artist, Creative Communications Specialist

MY CITIBANK Clear Visa Mini fits nicely wherever I decide to put it, and it comes in a chic, translucent design so it matches whatever I'm wearing. And good thing it's accepted worldwide as my work takes me abroad a lot so I can take it with me wherever I go. The high credit line also means I can confidently shop for my favorite items. It's such a fun gadget to carry around town, wherever in the world I may be!

- Raya Mananquil
Ramp Model, Sought-after Endorser

OPEN my wallet and all you will see is just one card - my Citibank Platinum. With its generous credit line, I don't need any other credit card. It also has all these features that I haven't had the chance to use, but I like knowing that I have at my disposal like the 24-hour concierge service and travel accident and inconvenience protection. Other banks continue to offer me their cards, with waived membership fees, no annual fees, even free for life but I just say no. I guess my loyalty has been rewarded many times over when I won the grand prize at Citibank's Preferred Brands promotion. Now, I'm more loyal than ever.

- Leoncio G. Gosiaco
Entrepreneur



CITIBANK makes your money work for you. It's like having my own financial management team, from the CitiGold Relationship Manager to the Financial Consultant to the CitiGold Associate to the CitiGold Phone Executive. Then there's the variety of investments I can choose from to suit my personal goals. With CitiGold Wealth Management, I can sleep better at night.

- Jose Marco H. del Pilar
Property Management Officer
Kalayaan Development & Industrial Corp. - affiliate of Victory Liner, Inc.

Thinking Ahead For Your Investments

WHETHER you are investing 1 million or 10 million or 100 million, you naturally want to get optimum returns for your money. But how will you know whether to invest in stocks or bonds or other financial instruments?

To make the right investment decision, you need professional help. Today, the financial world has become so large and complex that no single individual can hope to know everything. And this is where Citibank, the country's largest foreign bank and part of the world's largest financial services company, comes in.

Citibank offers patented tools to help investors get started in the right direction. For first-time investors, there's CitiPro Financial Check-up, a system which can help you assess your financial health, evaluate your needs, understand your risk profile, and work with you to achieve your goals.

For high net-worth individuals, there's CitiGold Wealth Planner, a proprietary software which assists you in creating a personalized financial plan based on your investible assets, investment objectives and risk profile. For half an hour, Citibank's experienced account officers can walk you through your personal finances and help you draw up a plan that will help you preserve and grow your wealth.

According to Citibank's Retail Branch Banking Director Ailene Litonjua, wealth-building is not an easy task. "Just as there are no short cuts to creating wealth, building wealth is not about cutting corners. Rather, it is about sensible, judicious planning and a commitment to save for the future. And, contrary to what most people think, one builds wealth not by business genius or plain luck, but by sensible financial preparation."

> 'We believe the most important service we can provide is information and financial options to our clients, not just distribution of products'

The value of getting a financial check-up from Citibank is that one can take stock of his present financial situation, assess earnings and investment opportunities, get valuable updated information on market trends and conditions, and receive various suggestions on how to invest one's money to achieve his goals.

"We believe the most important service we can provide is information and financial options to our clients, not just distribution of products. We put their needs first, and continuously demonstrate our objective and comprehensive approach to wealth management," added Litonjua.

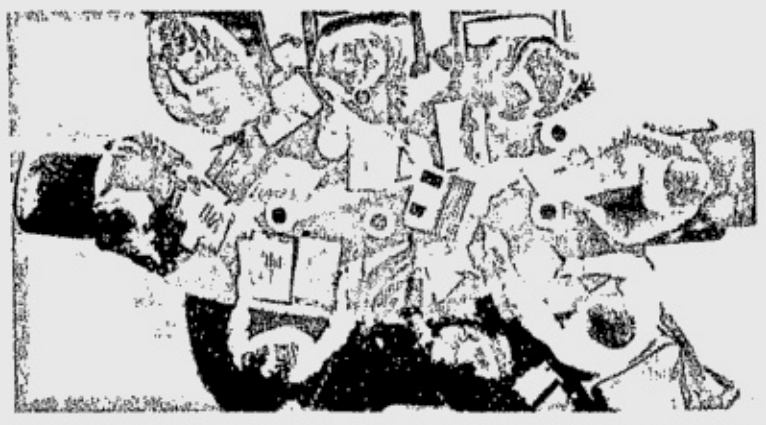
The CitiPro and CitiGold Wealth Planner financial check-ups also give clients the opportunity to meet Citibank's certified Investment Consultants who are highly qualified to assist them in reviewing and adjusting financial plans.

With years of expertise culled from Citibank's extensive research on financial and economic matters, the investment consultants can discuss available opportunities and help one gain an edge in any market situation.

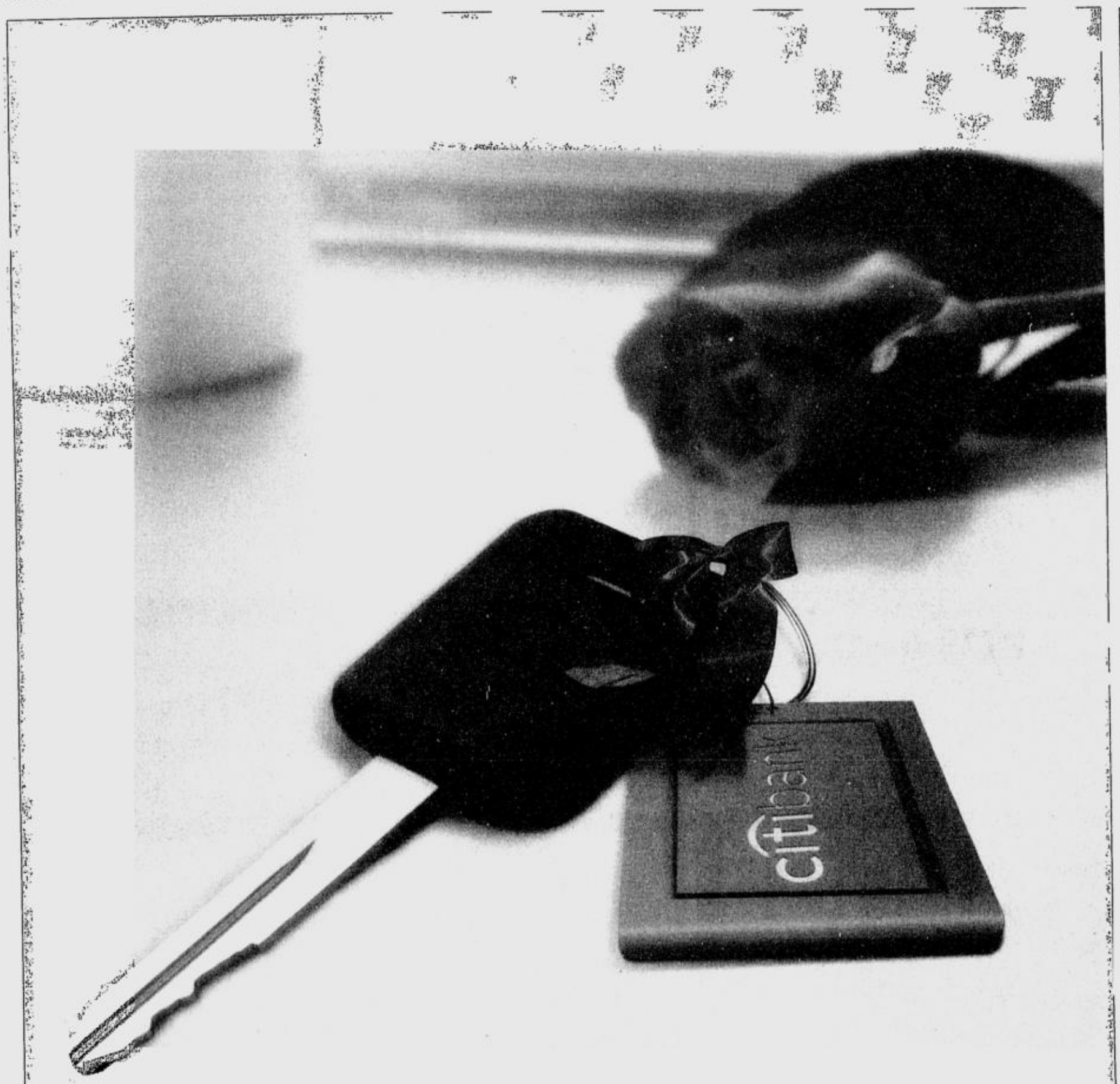
The financial check-ups normally serve as the first step taken by investors in opening a relationship with Citibank. Clients who open accounts with at least P300,000 can enjoy the privileges of a Citibanking relationship which includes the services of a personal banker, while those with P4 million or more become members of CitiGold Wealth Management and are treated to an array of first-class banking services.

As a Citibank customer, you will now have access to a wide range of products and information from the bank's global network. Depending on your financial goals, you pick what's relevant for you.

For years, Citibank has put a premium on developing customer relationships. As it marks 103 years of banking service in the Philippines, it remains committed to helping customers protect and grow their wealth, and plan for future generations.



WITH years of expertise culled from the bank's extensive research on financial and economic matters, Citibank's Investment Consultants can discuss with clients available opportunities and help one gain an edge in any market situation.



Your reward for sharing the journey with us.

Rewarding customer loyalty

LOYALTY has its rewards, and for Citibank's retail banking customers, it could be driving home a brand new 4x4 Nissan Patrol.

As it celebrates 103 years of banking service in the Philippines, Citibank launches "One Million Thanks To You", a major raffle promotion to show its appreciation to banking clients as well as credit cardholders for their continued support.

"Clearly, our many successes along the way are in large part due to our clients' patronage. Many of our banking customers have been with us for generations, starting with their grandfathers and for this kind of client confidence, they inspire us to deliver no less than the best array of financial products and services," declared Ailene Litonjua, Citibank's Retail Branch Banking Director.

From Aug. 1 to Oct 31, Citibank retail bank customers can expect a windfall of exciting prizes based on raffle points they can earn from different banking transactions. The prizes include such high-end gadgetry as Canon Digital Video Camera, Sony TV with DVD Home Theater, Apple IPOD units, Pentium 4-powered PCs, Philips TV with rack, and, for the grand prize, a 4x4 Nissan Patrol SUV.

"We are giving away lifestyle rewards, prizes that suit the sophisticated tastes of our clients. The Nissan Patrol in particular is acknowledged as one of the market leaders in the luxury SUV category and we're sure Citibank clients will be very comfortable in the driver's seat," Litonjua related.

To join, Citibank primary accountholders need to complete the Thank You Raffle Registration Form and submit this to their Account Officer. Once this is accomplished, they are immediately qualified to join the raffle. Registration forms must be turned in on or before 12 noon of Oct. 31.

Existing primary accountholders are awarded a starter bonus of one raffle point for every P100,000 of his total relationship balance maintained as of July 31.

Open at least P100,000 in a Citibank time deposit with a tenor of at least 6 months and get one raffle chance. Or get five raffle chances for every P100,000 balance maintained in any Citibank Checking and Savings Account per month during the promo period.

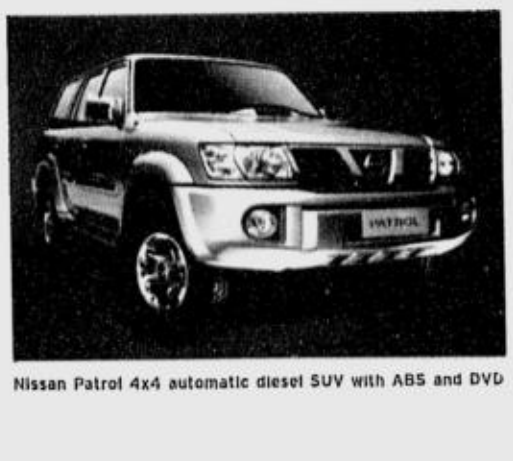
Avail yourself of at least P100,000 worth of Citibank Cash-Secured Line, and get five raffle chances for every P100,000 availed of per month. In addition, get 10 raffle chances for every P100,000 worth of investments you make.

For online transactions at www.citibank.com.ph, customers get one raffle chance when they open a Time Deposit with a tenor of at least six months. They can also earn one raffle chance by opening a checking or savings account online or by recommending a friend to open the same during the promotion period.

New customers can also earn raffle chances from maintaining a checking or savings account, time deposits and investments, availing themselves of a Cash-Secured Line and banking online.

All raffle points will be accumulated until the end of the promotion period. The grand raffle draw will be on Nov. 15 when 20 lucky customers will walk away with valuable prizes totaling over P3 million—a sincere and heartfelt "thank you" straight from the heart of the country's largest foreign bank.

CITIBANK'S Retail Branch Banking Director Ailene Litonjua (left) and Universal Motors Corp Senior Vice President for Marketing Elizabeth Lee show off the grand prize for the 'One Million Thanks To You' raffle promotion for retail banking clients, a 4x4 Nissan Patrol.



Nissan Patrol 4x4 automatic diesel SUV with ABS and DVD

On our 103rd year of Citibanking, we continue to provide you the reliability and security of banking with the world leader in financial services. It's the same confidence you can enjoy in a new Nissan Patrol 4x4 SUV, which you can win if you open an account with Citibank or maintain a minimum relationship balance of PhP100,000 from August 1 to October 31, 2005. It's just one of the million ways we'd like to thank you for sharing the journey with us, and look forward to the road ahead.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4421, Series of 2005.

For inquiries on enrolling in this raffle promotion, call 894-7162 in Metro Manila or 234-9037 in Metro Cebu.

One million thanks to you!

It's not just banking. It's Citibanking.

citibank

NISSAN

Universal Motors Corporation

A Tradition of Remarkable Innovations and Unequaled Services

SINCE it began its local credit card business in 1990, Citibank has enjoyed phenomenal growth in the industry, thanks to an impressive array of credit cards that boast of trailblazing innovations and unmatched services.

Here's the portfolio of Citibank cards, each with a defining set of features and privileges that perfectly complement every Filipino's needs and lifestyles.

Citibank Silver MasterCard / Visa

Purchasing power

- Launched in 1990
- Earn Rewards Points every time you use your card, and exchange them for great items
- Pay for purchases in light and easy monthly installments
- Accepted in over 29 million establishments across more than 150 countries

Citibank Gold MasterCard / Visa

Privileges around the world

- Launched in 1990
- Get exclusive discounts here and abroad through Citibank World Privileges
- Up to P10 million FREE travel accident and inconvenience protection
- Earn double Rewards Points for overseas transactions

Shell Citibank MasterCard

Earn FREE fuel

- Launched in 1998
- Get 2% rebate on fuel or 0.5% rebate on non-fuel purchases
- FREE 24-hour towing and roadside assistance
- Car insurance premiums payable on 12-month installment

Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa

Earn FREE flights faster

- Launched in 1999
- Earn 1 Asia Mile for every P45 spent locally; double Asia Miles for overseas spending
- Get more miles when you fly with Cathay Pacific and its partners
- Waived enrollment fees to the Marco Polo Club

Citibank Visa Platinum

Distinction and prestige

- Launched in 2000
- 24-hour Personal Concierge Service
- Exclusive privileges from Visa Platinum Club & Visa Bon Appetit
- Up to P20 million FREE travel accident and inconvenience protection

Citibank Clear MasterCard

Discounts at the hippest places

- Launched in 2001
- Attractive translucent design
- P90 easy-on-the-pocket monthly fees
- FREE travel inconvenience protection for missed flight, delayed and lost luggage

Citibank Clear Visa Mini

So mini, so much.

- Launched in 2004
- 43% smaller than regular-sized credit cards
- 100% loaded with discounts for shopping, dining and variety of purchases
- Perforated hole in corner allows card to be attached to key chain, mobile phone or other carry-along device

Citibank Cash Back Card

Cash Rebates

- Launched in 2005
- Get rebates of up to 2.5% of your purchases every month
- Hassle-free redemption since rebates are automatically credited on billing statement
- Enjoy the standard features of Citibank cards

Mercury Drug Citibank Visa

Rebates on Mercury Drug purchases

- Launched in 2005
- Get 2% rebate on all Mercury Drug purchases, 0.5% rebate on other charges
- FREE Annual Physical Exam package from Healthway Clinics
- FREE Emergency Quick Response service membership from Lifeline Arrows (for Gold cardholders)

It's Raining Citibank Rewards!

WHAT would you do if you won 1,000,000 Rewards Points? Treat your loved ones to a vacation? Shower your children with toys? Upgrade the family den with a state-of-the-art home entertainment system and other electronic gadgets? Maybe completely rehaul the kitchen with the latest appliances?

If you're a Citibank cardholder, or about to apply for one, we suggest you start thinking the answer to this question as you could soon be 1,000,000 Rewards Points richer.

In celebration of its 1 million credit cards milestone, Citibank is giving away a total of 8 million Rewards Points to 15 lucky cardholders in its "One Million Thanks To You" raffle promotion. Five winners will each receive 1 million Rewards Points in the grand draw!

Owners of Citibank MasterCard and Visa, Silver and Gold variants, as well as Citibank Visa Platinum, are qualified to join. From Aug. 1 until Oct. 29, every P1,000 single transaction on a Citibank card, whether a retail purchase, cash advance, PayLite installment, 1Bill, balance transfer or Call for Cash, will earn one raffle entry.

New approved applications also earn raffle chances. Citibank Silver MasterCard/ Visa get three raffle entries while Citibank Gold MasterCard/ Visa will have five raffle entries. New Citibank Platinum Visa cardmembers will be entitled to eight raffle chances, while approved applications for supplementary cards for participating types of Citibank cards will get two raffle entries.

To join and qualify, cardholders must register his or her Citibank credit card via text message following this format: CITI <space> LAST 10 DIGITS OF THEIR CITIBANK CREDIT CARD NUMBER then send to 2366 for Smart, Talk 'N Text, Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers. Cardholders will then receive a text message confirming their successful registration for the promotion. Registration is free of charge.

Registration of the primary cardholder automatically qualifies all other eligible Citibank credit cards under his account.

Online transactions at www.citibank.com.ph also win raffle chances. Cardholders get one raffle entry when they enroll for Citibank Electronic Statements or Citibank Alerts Service. Bonus raffle entries will also be given for every approved Gold, Silver and supplementary card application made online.

There will be three raffle draws during the promotion period. For the first draw set on Sept. 7, there will be five winners of 100,000 Rewards Points each. During the second draw on Oct. 7, there will be five winners of 500,000 Rewards Points. Finally, on the grand draw on Dec. 15, there will be five winners of 1,000,000 Rewards Points.

So whip out your Citibank cards and join the race to win 1,000,000 Rewards Points.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph. To apply for a Citibank credit card, call 423-3000.

It's more than just a credit card.

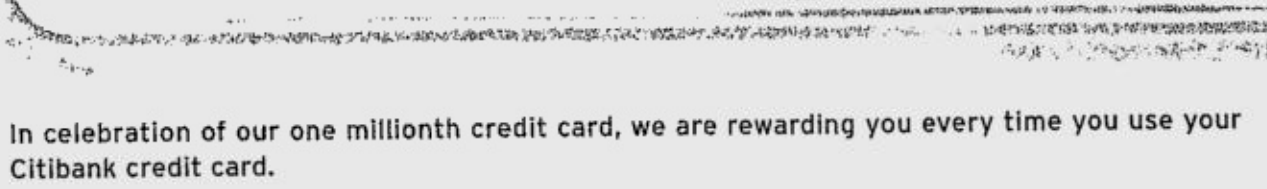
It's 1 Million Rewards Points from us to you.

In celebration of our one millionth credit card, we are rewarding you every time you use your Citibank credit card.

From August 1 to October 29, 2005, every valid transaction on your Citibank Silver and Gold MasterCard, Silver and Gold VISA or VISA Platinum Card entitles you to one (1) raffle entry for a chance to win 1 Million Citibank Rewards Points.

To register, text CITI<space><LAST 10 DIGITS OF YOUR CARD> to 2366.

One million thanks to you!



Fly to your dream destination or get the latest gadgets with your 1 Million Citibank Rewards Points.

How to join:

- Every PhP1,000 spend in a single receipt entitles the cardholder to one (1) raffle entry. Valid transactions include retail purchases, One Bill, PayLite, Cash Advance, Balance Transfer, Call for Cash and qualified online transactions.
- Every approved application for a Citibank credit card entitles cardholder to raffle entries:

Gold VISA/MC	Five (5) raffle entries
Silver VISA/MC	Three (3) raffle entries
Supplementary Card	Two (2) raffle entries

To join, register by texting:
CITI<space><LAST 10 DIGITS OF YOUR CARD> to 2366

Draw dates:

1st Draw, Sept 7, 2005	Five (5) winners of 100,000 Rewards Points
2nd Draw, Oct 7, 2005	Five (5) winners of 500,000 Rewards Points
3rd Draw, Dec 15, 2005	Five (5) winners of 1,000,000 Rewards Points

For inquiries, call 995-9999. To apply for a Citibank credit card, call 423-3000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4359, Series of 2005

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E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Monday Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Poor towns turn to Web to seek investors

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Poor towns in the Cordillera, which are confronting exorbitant prices of fuel, power and basic goods due to the expanded value added tax, are now turning to the Internet to draw future investors.

The National Computer Center has opened individual websites for some Cordillera provinces and towns, aimed at making these villages accessible to foreign businesses through the Internet, said Gabriel Aquino, NCC coordinator here.

Aquino said many of these towns' residents are unaware of their web presence and that remote towns are already being accessed through the Internet possibly by foreign investors.

Ifugao, which belongs to the country's poorest provinces, has attracted Japanese interest due to the region's water resources and hydroelectric power potentials, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

The national labor survey this year placed Cordillera's inflation rate at 7.1 percent as of April, which was higher than the 5.6 percent inflation rate of April 2004.

Aquino said he went to 76 towns in Benguet, Kalinga, Apayao, Mt. Province, Ifugao and Abra to help local governments take advantage of their web presence.

But he said many of these towns have no steady access to electricity or telephone lines to make technology effectively work for them.

The NCC is adjusting to all communication innovations, including satellite-transmitted Internet services, to reach remote towns that rely on cellular and satellite telephones.

"People there can't see their website for themselves, unless they travel to a different town with Internet connections, but people from other parts of the world have taken notice," he said.

"I act as a de facto administrator for websites in the Cordillera, and I have received questions about how to buy land in [the mining town of] Itogon in Benguet, or from someone who wants to marry a Bontoc girl [from Mt. Province].

Linking all of the country's local governments through the Internet this year is very important, Aquino said.

Apayao's local governments recently opened their districts to mining because of a need to progress, and the Internet may be the key to making that dream possible, he said.

The NCC is hosting these websites for free, using uniform web templates, which even the untrained can follow without too much difficulty, he said.

But Aquino said many of these towns have not been updating their sites, despite efforts to introduce the web to younger employees.

"Some old mayors cannot grasp the web, so we train the younger employees who have the mayors' ears. Many of these mayors were farmers who never saw computers before they went into politics, he said.

These local governments have not allotted enough resources to keep the websites running and, more importantly, interactive.

"Perhaps, corruption is one reason. There are no kickbacks from Internet investments. But maybe it's really because we need to show people that they can get economic results from the web," he said.

In a recent state of the region report, Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog, Regional Development Council chair, announced a "dramatic drop in rural poverty between 2000 and 2003," indicating improvements in the number of Cordillera families living below the poverty line.

The Cordillera's economy now ranks 11th among the country's 17 regions, after starting out at rock bottom due to extreme poverty in 1988, he said.

"Preliminary estimates show that [the Cordillera's] economy grew by 4.1 percent in 2004. However, our growth has not been consistent nor sustainable," he said.

The region posted a gross regional domestic product of only P11.3 billion in 1987, which grew 16 years later to P26.5 billion.

"[Supplementing] an increase in agricultural employment between 20000 and 2003 [is] agriculture's gross output [which] grew by an average of 2.8 percent. This complementary increase may well be the reason for the much more dramatic improvement in the poverty situation in [Cordillera's] rural areas," Dalog said.

Yet no matter the improvements, the Cordillera "experienced years of jobless growth."

Dalog said employment reportedly grew in 1991, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2000 and 2002, but these are the same years when the region "experienced contraction in employment."

The region continues to flounder because it has the "least developed road system in Luzon," having only 30 percent of its roads paved compared to the 85 percent posted by the Ilocos and the 58 percent posted by the Cagayan valley.

START BY BUILDING A NEW TECHNOLOGY COMPANY.

On April 30, two leading PC companies became a single global technology powerhouse. IBM's former Personal Computing Division, maker of ThinkPad* notebooks and the leader in enterprise PCs, joined forces with the most well-known brand in China, the world's fastest-growing PC market. The result is a new company.

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Half of the new Lenovo's 19,000 employees will be from IBM's former PC Division: ThinkPad designers and engineers, customer reps and support people. People you know. People you trust. Now, Lenovo people.

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Never mind the price, gold still dazzles Asia

SINGAPORE/BOMBAY—Villagers in Indonesia may wear one or two gold teeth to boost social status. In India, parents will not marry off their daughters without giving them some gold jewelry for financial security.

Ancient texts talk about Indian merchants venturing on dangerous voyages to distant lands in search of gold. In China, gold inlay was applied to bronze objects by at least 1200 B.C.

Gold—the Glowing Dawn—has fascinated Asia for centuries and its demand is likely to only increase in the years ahead, led by China which seems set to become the last gold-crazed nation in the region.

In Asia, the yellow metal is not only an item of adornment but also an investment—something that, for instance, holders in quake-prone Japan can sell back for cash in times of trouble.

"In a longer term, you ask people whether they have confidence in the US dollar? Not really, right?" asked Albert Cheng, Far East managing director of the World Gold Council.

Several Asian countries have seen an increase in demand for gold for jewelry and investment in recent years, reflecting economic growth and the metal's growing popularity.

India, the world's biggest buyer, is estimated to consume 600 tons of gold this year, up from around 590 tons in 2004.

India's gold demand surged 17 percent in 2004 from a year earlier.

China, another main buyer whose consumption may eventually match India's, is likely to see demand rising by 10 percent this year as the country liberalizes its bullion market.

Dealers and analysts say investors have diversified into hard assets such as gold because of the wide US trade deficit and China's revaluation of the yuan—a move which will lead to stronger Asian currencies and a weaker dollar.

A weaker dollar means a more affordable price of gold, which is quoted in US dollars and currently stands at around $425 an ounce.

"In a country like India, we don't have enough safe investment alternatives. People also have money in banks, but they want to create a portfolio and gold is an important part of the basket," said Ranjeeth Rathore, a dealer in Madras.

Gold prices have been volatile in recent months, touching a 3-month high of $443.60 in June, just a few dollars away from this year's peak at $446.70, before profit-taking and a firming US currency erased some of the gains. Gold hit a 16-1/2-year high of $456.75 in December.

But choppy prices fail to dampen the demand in India, where jewelry forms an important part of Hindu marriages, with parents giving their daughter gold for financial security.

"The first choice of Indians is gold. It's a sensible investment. They want to invest in something which is tangible," said Rajesh Mehta, chair of Rajesh Exports Ltd, India's largest jewelry exporting firm.

"Strength in both China's economy and currency and heightened investor interest should support Asian gold demand over the next year. And with rivers of energy dollars flowing into the Middle East, demand there shouldn't be too shabby either," Commonwealth Bank of Australia said in a report. *Reuters*

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LIFESTYLE

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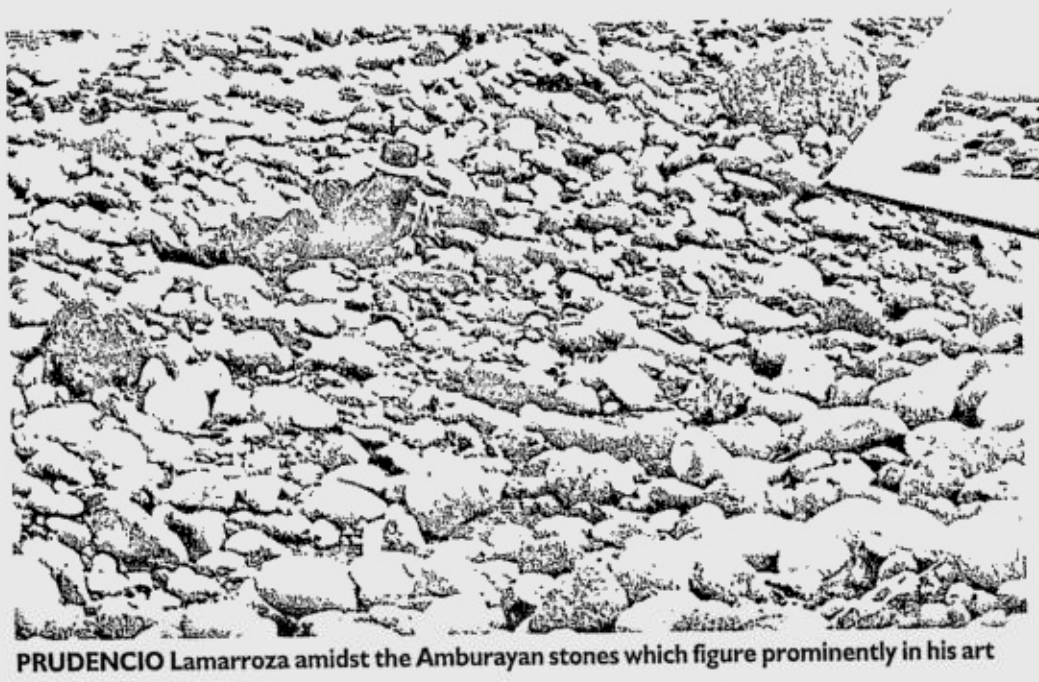
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

And quiet flows the Amburayan

"PRUDENCIO Lamarroza: His Life and Art," by Manuel Duldulao



PRUDENCIO Lamarroza amidst the Amburayan stones which figure prominently in his art

A book and a retrospective show present Prudencio Lamarroza's link with the rugged Ilocos landscape

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE WORKS of visual artist Prudencio Lamarroza are magical, enchanting.

The hallmark of his art is the Amburayan River (and its mythical goddess, the Amburayan Queen) in his native Tagudin, Ilocos Sur.

As noted critic Alice Guillermo once wrote, "through these works the artist voices a lament for its transformation, through man's unabated pillage of nature, from a magnificent river to a drying bed of stones."

This is indeed so. But in the hands of a

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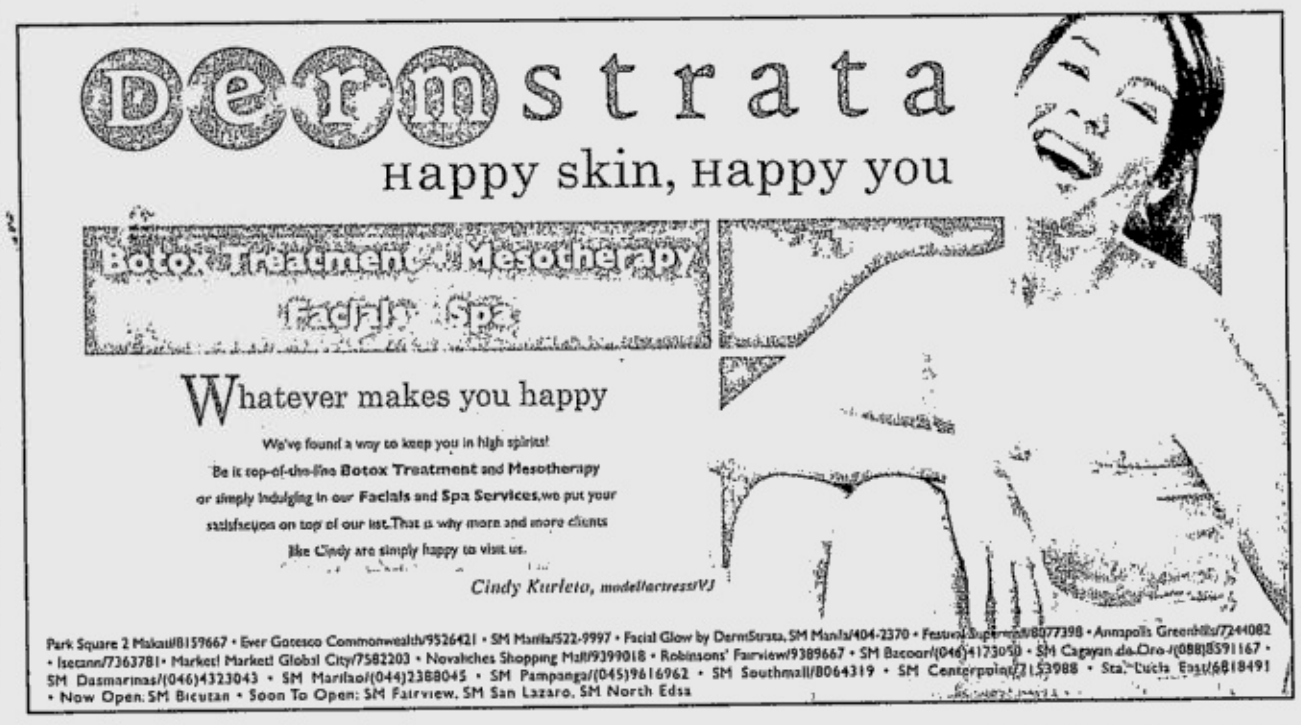
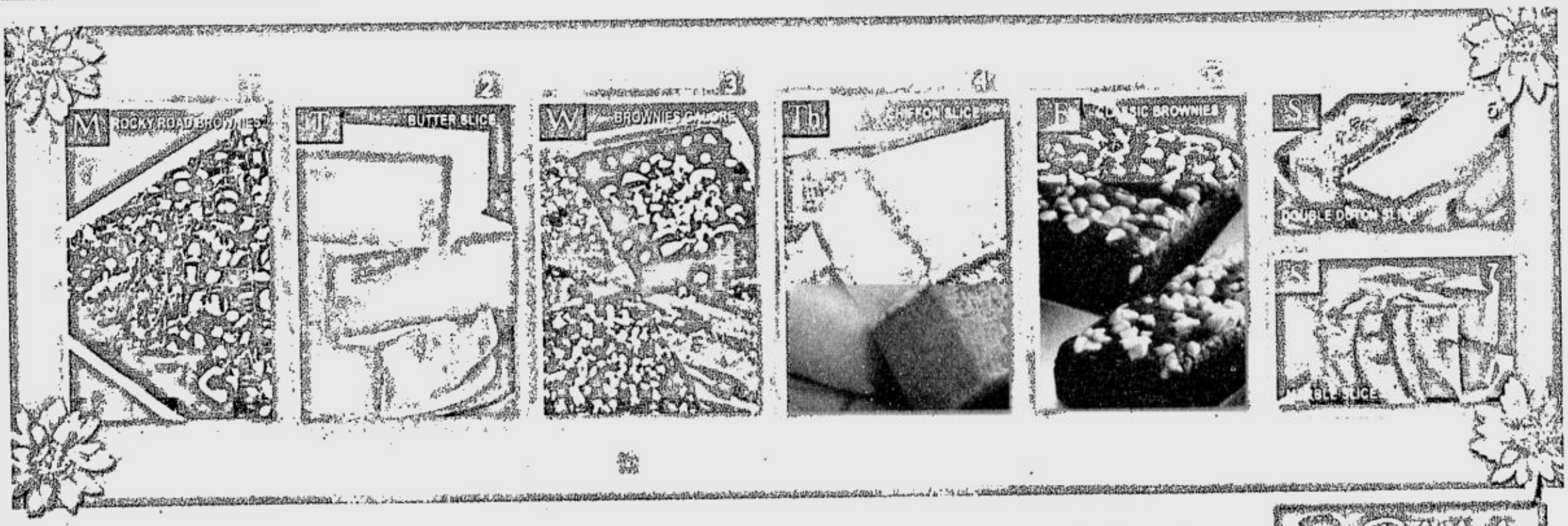




Snack attack!

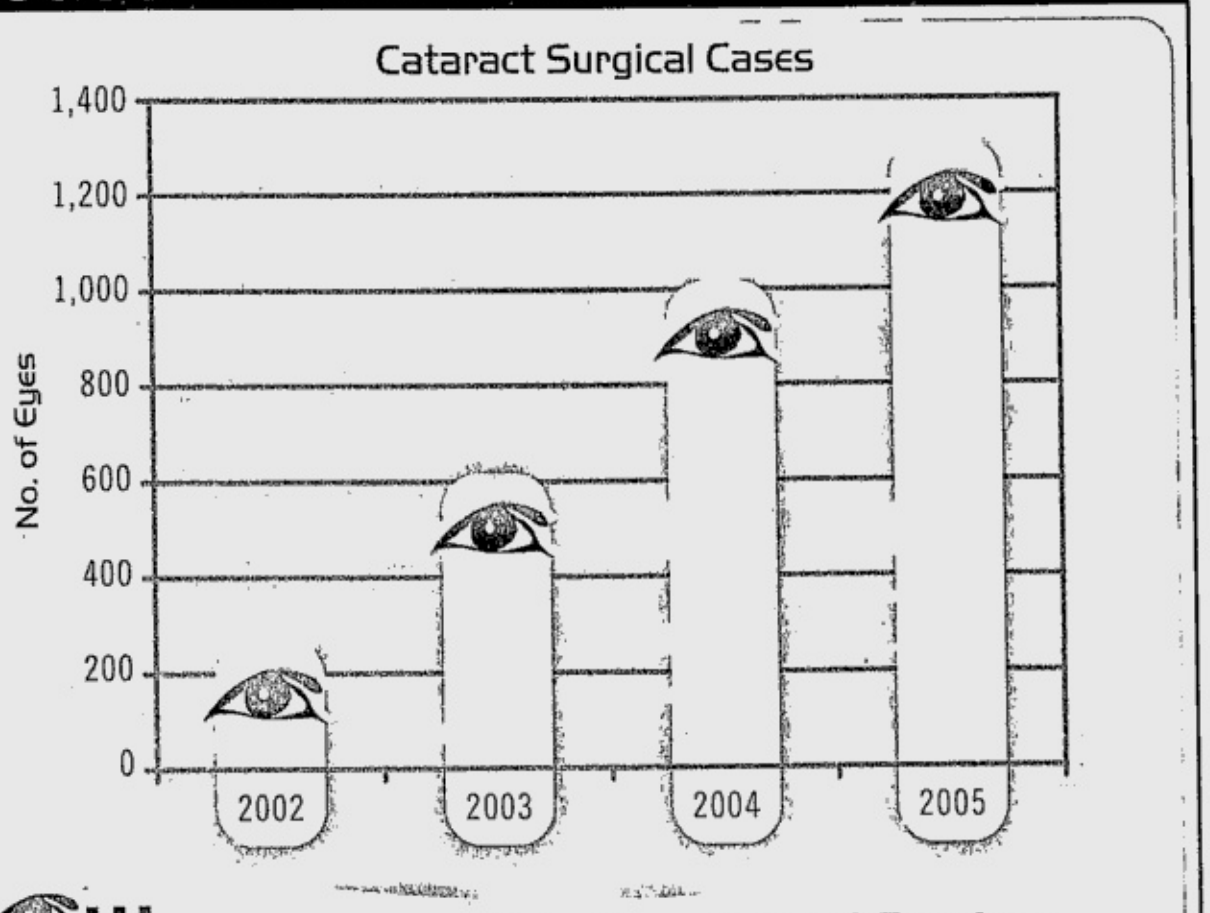
Ngayon Rocky Road Brownies bukas Butter Slice, the next day Brownies Galore. You can have a different Goldilocks Snack each & everyday.

Sa Goldilocks, siguradong bawat araw masarap.

Goldilocks
How Thoughtful. How *Pinoy*.

Readers' feedback on heritage issues

AUGUST IS THE SIGHT-SAVING MONTH



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Galileo SurgiCenter
Reduces Cataract Blind
By More Than 1,000.

Galileo SurgiCenter, the Cataract & Glaucoma Specialty Eye Center, an Ambulatory Surgery Center licensed by the Department of Health and accredited by PhilHealth, has been in operation since 2002.

Cataracts are visually significant opacities of the eye's natural lens usually brought about by aging. At Galileo, cataract surgery is a painless out-patient procedure performed with topical (eyedrop) anesthesia by Phacoemulsification.

The cumulative number of eyes operated on for cataract since the outset at Galileo is 1,300 and counting. In partnership with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Galileo aims to help the DOH in reducing the number of Filipinos who are visually impaired due to cataracts.

For more information on cataract, glaucoma, and other eye diseases call 7217135, 7216412, 7261667 or 7269815.

Galileo SurgiCenter is located at the Ground Floor of Belson House, 271 EDSA (near the corner of Connecticut Street, Greenhills), Mandaluyong City.

Ask about our Special Sight-Saving Cataract Packages

THIS COLUMN received lively e-mail messages in response to several heritage issues.

Jai Alai

A reader responded to the recent column titled "Remember the Jai Alai?"

"I first took notice of the Sky Room [restaurant at the Jai Alai] eight years ago when I worked in Manila and regularly commuted along Taft Avenue. What single word could describe its beauty? Even in its ruined state it was madly alluring.

"It was proof of how the city was a relic of Manila before its utter corruption. I don't know much about architecture and history. I didn't know about its [Jai Alai] importance either. But one need not be a scholar to suspect its former eminence. During the daily two-hour traffic jam, only the sight of it preserved my wits.

"...The preservation of national architectural treasures is ultimately the government's responsibility.

"Never mind that our government does nothing to restore or preserve buildings like the Jai-Alai; the most absurd part is [that the government] makes a self-willed effort to destroy them... We can only attribute it to our unique Filipino value of cultural self-annihilation."

Preservation may appear to be a government responsibility. Among the few enlightened government sectors is the Department of Education, which is deeply committed to preservation through its Heritage Schoolhouse Restoration Program.

A schoolhouse in Bacolod and another in Baguio have been restored and are now used once more as classrooms. Two more schoolhouses (in San Fernando, Pampanga, and Sampaloc, Manila) will be completed within the next six months.

However, without citizens sharing in the burden by pointing out the way and cooperating with the government, preservation may never happen.

Preserving heritage is a joint effort.

Buffer zones

"After reading your article ('Buffer Zones Needed to Preserve Heritage'), my hometown of Lingayen came to mind.

"A century-old building adjacent to the church (actually the *convento* or priest's residence, an elegant Spanish colonial building adjacent to the church that was an unappreciated Lingayen landmark) was demolished to pave the way for a new commercial building.

"I think this is now the trend... as spacious religious compounds are turned into commercial spaces.

"Priests and religious leaders seem more focused on making money rather than in seeking God."

The respondent goes on to note that the Local Government Code mandates local government units to prepare a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance. But local officials turn a blind eye to the law as they routinely approve new constructions on an ad-hoc basis.

Billboards

Another reader: "I read your piece on establishing buffer zones around heritage sights and the appalling things they did to the Balayan Church and environs. I can't seem to find the right words to describe the people responsible for the desecration...

"It would also be good if you could do a piece on the cancer-like malaise that has been eating up both urban and rural landscapes—signs.

"The Philippines has become a dumpsite of signage. Everywhere you look, everywhere you go, signs visually assault you.

"Haven't you noticed that in a lot of places, a single sign on a store façade just doesn't seem to be enough? Each establishment outdoes its neighbor's signage, so the end result: more clutter.

"While following the TV coverage of the Tour de France, I was amazed to discover how pretty, neat, clean and virtually sign-free the French countryside is.

"Except for traffic and safety signs, there are no billboards along country roads. In quaint villages, little shops are happy with one simple store sign on their façade.

"What do you think should be done?

"Do you think we should get the Department of Tourism to head a task force composed of environmental NGOs and urban renewal and heritage-protection advocates to mount a campaign and convince local executives to seriously look into signage and do something about this scourge?"

DOT a major offender

Indeed, a task force is needed to regulate the scourge of signage.

But led by the DOT?

The DOT is a major billboard offender. Look at the number of WOW billboards and banners the DOT has strung in cities and in the countryside without any respect for the urban and rural vistas that our tourists (and we Filipinos as well) deserve to enjoy.

We Filipinos deserve a lifestyle that we can enjoy and a country that we can be proud of. The only way to achieve that is to get together and make things work.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

World-acclaimed Filipino Tenor
Otoniel Gonzaga at the AYALA MUSEUM

Friday, August 5, 2005, 8 p.m.
Makati Avenue corner De la Rosa Street
Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati City

with
Noel Azcona, baritone
Joan Cano, soprano
& Mary Anne Espina
pianist

*Otoniel Gonzaga holds the record of being the only Filipino tenor to sing more than 65 roles including classical operettas–the most notable of which is the role of **Prince Sou Chong** which he has performed more than 500 times and in more than 25 different productions.*

*Of late he is covering for Placido Domingo in the triple bill opening season of the Washington D.C.-based National Opera (the second act of Giordani's **Fedora** with Mirella Freni, the final act of Verdi's **Otello** and the final act of Lehar's **The Merry Widow**).*

*"It is a special honor to be asked by a great artist like Placido Domingo to be part of the opera house he leads," says Gonzaga who is home for special concert at Ayala Museum for **Prime Asia Magazine's** 2nd year Anniversary Celebration.*

For reservations:
750-0365; 892-6740
0917-8014450; 0917-8241465
e-mail: prime.magazine@gmail.com
Tickets: Php2,000 & Php1,500

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Event beneficiary: Panaghoy Ng Mga Bata

And quiet flows . . .

From page C1

young (make that middle-aged) master like Lamarroza, the scene becomes a celebration of nature, the rocks painted in candy-like, captivating colors to delight a child (the artist is himself childlike, although a quiet person and a deep thinker), the mountains enveloped in mist, and Amburayan River bathed in a pastel-pink glow.

The Amburayan series is Lamarroza's claim to fame, but his art is not, of course, limited to this theme.

In the new book "Prudencio Lamarroza: His Life and Art" (published by the University of Pangasinan), art author Manuel D. Duldulao traces Lamarroza's development as a figurative as well as abstract painter, and documents his body of works, including early paintings that are not well known. The plates include the glowing Amburayan series, bucolic and pastoral scenes, and geometric squares, triangles and stripes.

THE ARTIST framed by one of his paintings

'Blue' period

When Lamarroza (Amor to friends) was 10, the family moved to Manila.

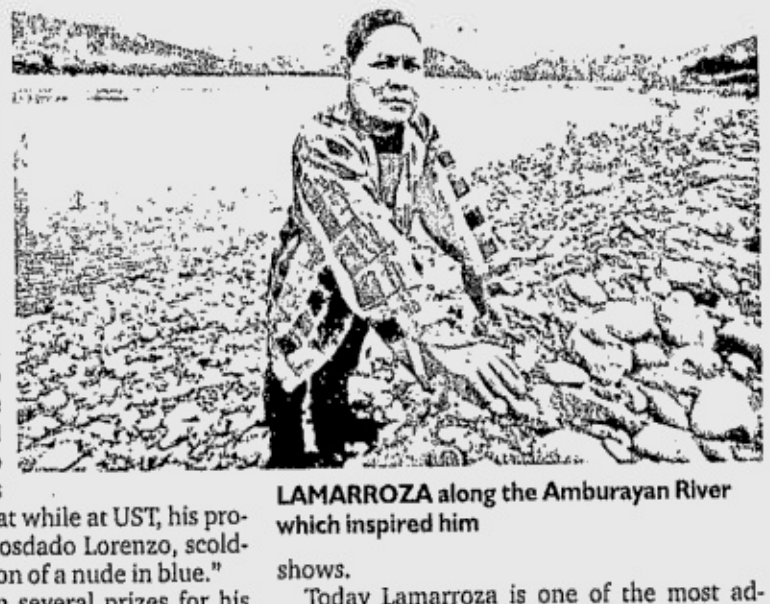
"My memories of Tagudin began to follow me," he recalled in an interview with Duldulao. "When I was a boy in the province, I drew houses and jeepneys. Now that I was in Manila, the landscapes of the old town began to haunt me... like the strains of a bamboo jaw's harp, which we call *kubing* in Ilocano."

Lamarroza studied at University of Santo Tomas, stayed there for four years, and then transferred to Philippine Women's University. It is said that while at UST, his professor, the eminent Diosdado Lorenzo, scolded him "for his rendition of a nude in blue."

But at UST, he won several prizes for his paintings.

His first three solo shows were in Solidaridad Galleries, managed by a fellow Ilocano, the novelist F. Sionil José (now a National Artist).

He later exhibited at the old Heritage Art Center, and through the decades won many prizes and mounted other group and solo shows.

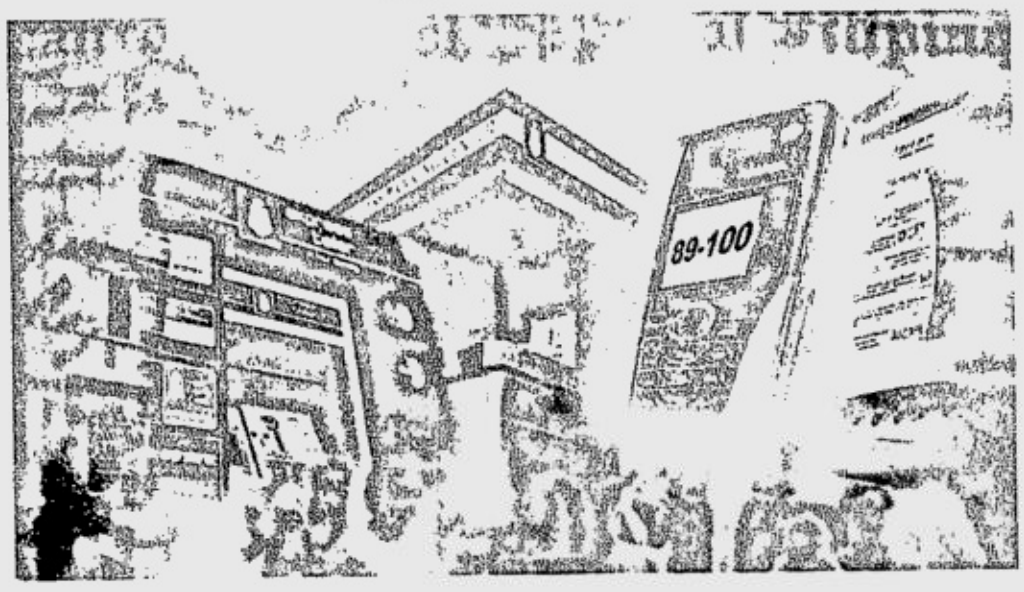


LAMARROZA along the Amburayan River which inspired him

Today Lamarroza is one of the most admired painters of his generation. There will be a mini retrospective of his early and recent works in Gallery Genesis, Heritage Art Center and Old Manila Bookstore (all at SM Megamall, 4th floor).

Also to be launched is the Duldulao book on the life and art of Lamarroza.

BPI Celebrates 154 Years of Banking Leadership



THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is celebrating its anniversary on the entire month of August. Marking its 154th year, BPI expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the primary motivation for its achievements - the customers.

Immediately on the first day of the month, a host of events launches the anniversary festivities. A Mass of Thanksgiving at the BPI Head Office Canteen, with Most. Rev. Bernardino C. Cortez, DD as celebrant, ushers in an early start to the milestone commemoration for the Unibankers. An exhibit, to be displayed at the front lobby of the BPI Head Office, showcases the accomplishments of the bank, focusing principally on the customer, the bank's driving force towards excellence. The exhibit expresses the bank's appreciation for its valued clients who have committed their unwavering trust and loyalty to BPI. At the back lobby is another exhibit, this time for the people behind BPI's operations, the Unibankers. The exhibit, organized by the bank's Interest Clubs, launches the Membership Blitz Promo encouraging the Unibankers to discover their passions by joining one or more of the clubs. It also displays the Interest Clubs' schedule of various workshops and tournaments in August, organized especially for the Unibankers.

The rest of the month is packed with exciting events highlighting BPI's 154th anniversary theme of appreciation and thanksgiving.

BPI Foundation Inc is conducting its "Show Me, Teach Me, SME!", a learning program on credit and financial management for entrepreneurs, on Aug. 5 in Cagayan de Oro. The Foundation is also holding "Pagpupugay" on the same day in the same area and another on Aug. 24 in Caloocan City. "Pagpupugay" is a program that promotes patriotism and the value of respect for the flag, where kits comprising the Philippine flag, a cassette tape, a VHS tape and a VCD of the national anthem, "Lupang Hinirang", are given to public schools.

On Aug. 19, the Foundation, in line with its values enhancement thrust of caring for the environment, is conducting another "Para! Bawas Usok" forum, which aims to raise air pollution awareness, particularly among motorists.

On the night of the same day, a concert entitled, "Bayan Umawit" will be held at the Teatro Aguinaldo (AFP Theater). The concert is sponsored by BPI in partnership with the Catholic Church - the Loyola School of Theology and Jesuit Communications. The concert features artists such as Noel Cabangon, Cooky Chua, Jett Pangan and May Bayot. "Bayan Umawit" commemorates 40 years of Philippine Liturgical Music, in conjunction with BPI's 154 years of banking service.

On Aug. 26, the annual Service Awards will be held at the BPI Head Office, honoring Unibankers who have displayed loyalty through their years of service in the bank. After the Service Awards, a recurrence of the "Bayan Umawit" concert will be held at the Ayala Museum, this time exclusively for members of the Ayala Group of Companies, Unibankers, clients from preferred banking, private banking, Asset Management and Trust Group, and especially those part of the Church or religious sector. The concert culminates the bank's expression of appreciation to all the people behind BPI's success.

The rest of the month is packed with exciting events highlighting BPI's 154th anniversary theme of appreciation and thanksgiving.

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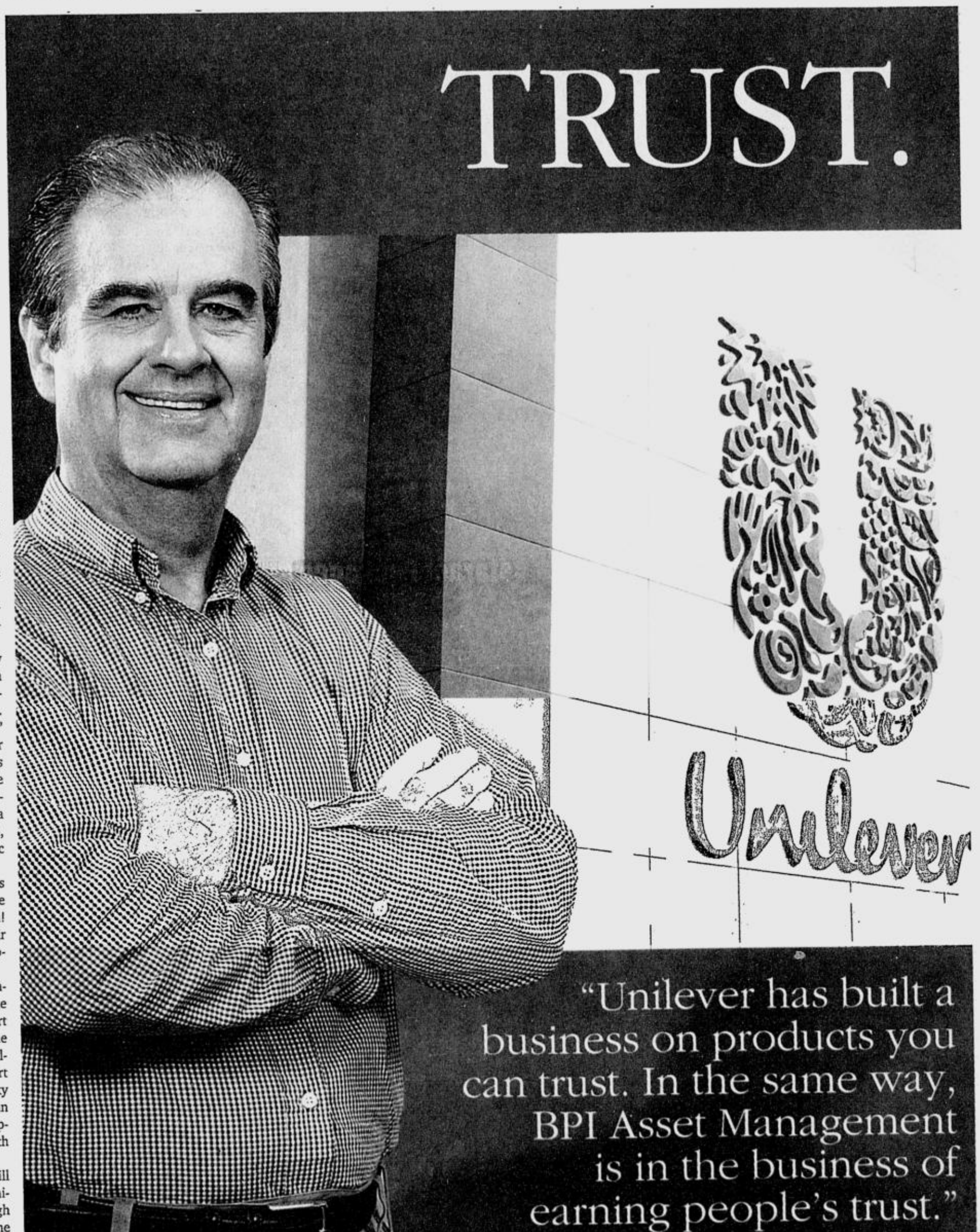

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BPI Foundation values commitments

FOR THE past 154 years, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has firmly ensconced itself as a leader in the banking industry. BPI has cultivated a reputation for innovative banking products and services.

Aware of its corporate responsibility, BPI created the BPI Foundation 25 years ago. The BPI Foundation is the bank's social development arm, with the mission to uplift the total well-being of the community. The bank's achievements through smooth and rough times underscore its commitment on strong relationships with its customers, business partners and its own employees.

The BPI Foundation manages institutionalized programs in education, such as the prestigious annual BPI-DOST Science Awards and the BPI College Scholarship. It should be noted that beginning this year, the Department of Science and Technology has partnered with BPI in this endeavor. The BPI Science Awards recognizes budding young scientists who excel in their chosen fields while the BPI College Scholarship encourages academic excellence among the dependents of the bank's officers and employees.

It is also involved in enterprise development. It is currently presenting BPI FAST (Financial Alliance for a Sustainable Tomorrow) and Show Me, Teach Me, SME!: Empowering Entrepreneurs.

BPI FAST, the wholesale lending program of the BPI Foundation, is a rediscounting facility for non-government organizations in microfinance lending and supports the expansion and development of microenterprises. BPI FAST enables these institutions to meet the short-term liquidity problems and augment loanable funds for new/additional credit requirements of micro-entrepreneurs.

Show Me, Teach Me, SME! is a program that focuses on financial and credit management for ventures with asset sizes from P3 million to P15 million and workforces of less than 100. Participants are introduced to their BPI employee-mentors who are tasked to give them further pointers on financial and credit concepts. The BPI employee-mentors serve as the participants' partners in the succeeding three months.

The Foundation likewise oversees value enhancement programs. One of them is "I Volunteer", the bank's Employee Volunteer Program. "I Volunteer" aims to initiate, assist and participate in the efforts of volunteer agencies and organizations for basic social services.

Another program is "Pagpupugay: Rekindling Respect for the Flag" which sees the BPI Foundation distributing the Philippine flag, as well as audio-cassettes and videotapes of the Philippine National Anthem to public schools. It aims to instill in students love of country and respect for the national flag.

The Foundation is working on its Preventive Health and Socialized Housing Projects.

In time for BPI's 154 years, the BPI Foundation is holding the following events: "Pagpupugay" on Aug. 4 in Cagayan de Oro, Show Me, Teach Me, SME on Aug. 5 also in Cagayan de Oro, and a tree-planting project on Aug. 20 in Wawa, Montalban.

BPI's Awards for 2005

Deals of the Year in the Philippines Ayala Corporation 12.677% FRN due on '09	• The Banker
Best Cash Management, Trade & Custody (The Asset Triple A Awards 2004)	• The Asset
Award for Excellence for "Infanta, Passage to the Pacific" Award for Merit for: Show Me, Teach Me, SMILE: Empowering Entrepreneurs I Volunteer Program - Employee Volunteer Program Solid Waste Management Among Youth (Gold Quill Awards)	• IABC
Best Commercial Bank for Philippine Region (Asia's Best Bank Awards)	• Asiamoney
Gold SuperBrand Award Digest	• Reader's
Best Retail Bank in the Philippines Excellence in Automotive Lending (Excellence in Retail Financial Services Program 2004)	• Asian Banker
Best Bank in the Philippines Finance (Best Emerging MArket Banks 2005 - Asia)	• Global
Best Bank - Philippines (2005 Country Awards for Achievement)	• Finance Asia
Corporate Governance Award (Annual Philippine Corporate Governance Scorecard Project)	• Institute of Corporate Directors
Express Learning Center Best Customer Service Program Congress (Asian Banking Awards 2005)	• Asia Pacific Bankers (6th)
Straight Through US Dollar Nostro Settlements Runner Up - Operational Efficiency Program	
Best Bank in the Philippines	• Euromoney
Bank of the Year for the Philippines in 2005	• The Banker

BPI Leasing retains industry leadership

BPI LEASING Corp (BPIL), the Bank's leasing subsidiary, retains its industry dominance with a 35-percent share of the leasing market. It continues to cater to top corporate and multinational firms for their vehicle and equipment needs. As of June 30, BPIL's net lease portfolio (plus residual value) stands at P4.24 billion, way ahead of the second player's P3.06 billion.

Last September 2004, BPIL established BPI Rental Corp (BRC), a wholly owned non-finance subsidiary that will engage solely in VATable Operating Lease. This is a response to the perceived customers' needs to be able to enjoy the VAT via leases, as they do via cash purchase.

Both BPIL and BRC are focused on compliance with the implementation of the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) 17/International Accounting Standards (IAS) 17, which prescribes the appropriate accounting and recording of leases. Both BPIL and BRC have completed their internal systems improvement to achieve this end.

BPIL's and BRC's challenge is to educate a wider range of customers in their appreciation and eventual use of leasing as an alternative financing method. Thus far, a limited number of large companies, mostly multi-nationals, understand and appreciate leasing. Globally, leasing is a widely used mode of financing. The Philippines has been a laggard as far as the leasing product is concerned. BPIL and BRC hope to lead the industry into a leasing boom in the next years to come.

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One Appliance Showcase from Robinsons Appliances which includes one washing machine, one microwave, one turbo broiler and one refrigerator

3RD PRIZE - One P10,000 worth of Gift Certificate from Topshop, Topman and Dorothy Perkins

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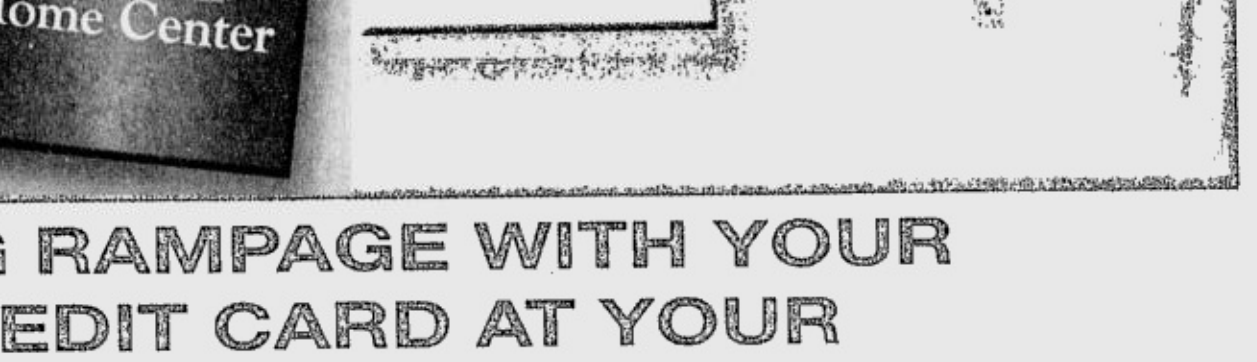

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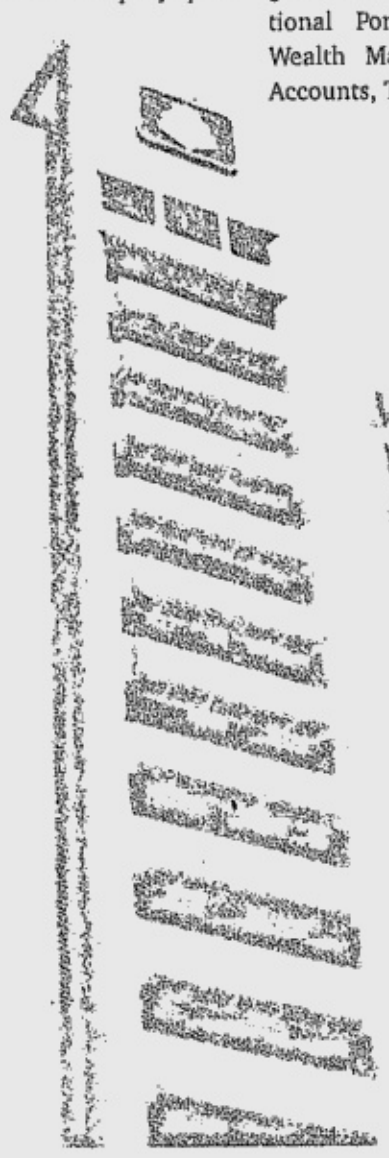
Put your trust in the leader

WITH over P240 billion in assets managed and the largest market share, BPI Asset Management continues to lead the local asset management and trust industry. With a wealth of accumulated investment experience, BPI Asset Management is uniquely positioned to provide investors with an expert and sophisticated assessment of risks and opportunities in both the domestic and global financial markets.



Its investment products are classified into five major categories: Corporate and Institutional Portfolio Management, Wealth Management, Custody Accounts, Traditional Trust, and Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITFs).

In October 2004, the Bank of the Philippine Islands, through BPI Asset Management, was granted authority by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to be the Third Party Custodian, the only local bank among five institutions granted with such authority. This approval was given on the basis of the bank's Camels 4 rating, a feat unparalleled in the local banking industry. This was a clear manifestation of "Trust" in the bank by the monetary authority, the BSP.

Recognition has not been limited to the domestic setting. Recently, BPI Asset Management was appointed by the Executives' Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks (Emeap) as the Fund Manager of ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund, the Philippine Sub-Fund for the Asian Bond Fund 2 (ABF2) Fund of Bond Funds (FoBF). Emeap is made up of 11 central banks and monetary authorities in the East Asia and Pacific Region, namely Reserve Bank of Australia, People's Bank of China, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Bank Indonesia, Bank of Japan, The Bank of Korea, Bank Negara Malaysia, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, The Monetary Authority of Singapore, and Bank of Thailand. This engagement affirms BPI Asset Management's position as one of the prominent fund managers in the Australasian Region. BPI Asset Management is currently working closely with the BSP to offer the ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund to the public in the next few months.

Backed by unsurpassed financial perspective gained only from 154 years of experience, BPI Asset Management is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the opportunities arising from the regulatory and structural changes that are expected to affect the financial markets in the years ahead. With core values like Trust, Performance and Innovation, BPI Asset Management is expected to continue as the dominant market player in the domestic and regional fund management industry.

since 1851

154 YEARS

OF MAKING BANKING HISTORY

Backed by unsurpassed financial perspective gained only from 154 years of experience, BPI Asset Management is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the opportunities

A celebration of cheers

BPI HAS long been known to be a leader; the innovator of banking products and services. Since 1851, BPI has in fact been making banking history... with BPI present in every milestone in Philippine banking, being the first to introduce to the market meaningful banking innovations. In fact, BPI has been acknowledged by critics to be the best in its field. As proof, the following awards have been received by the Bank of the Philippine Islands in 2005:

- 8-time Best Bank - Philippines - Finance Asia;
- 7-time Best Bank in the Philippines - Global Finance;
- 7-time Best Bank in the Philippines - Euromoney;
- 4-time Best Commercial Bank in the Philippine Region - Asiamoney;
- 3-time Best Retail Bank in the Philippines - Asian Banker;
- Best Emerging Market Bank in Asia - Global Finance;
- Most Outstanding Bank (National Award) - Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards;
- Best Customer Service Program, Express Learning Center - Asian Banking Awards;
- Excellence in Automotive Lending, Happy Family Bank Auto Loan - Asian Banker;
- Best Cash Management Country Awards - The Asset;
- Gold Super Brand Award - Readers Digest;
- Corporate Governance Awards - Institute of Corporate Directors, Asian Banker.

But behind every award, at the heart of every product and service conceived is the customer. In 2005, BPI has reorganized to ensure its customer segment needs are met - whether the customer be a Private, Preferred, Corporate, Mass Market or Expat Pinoy client.

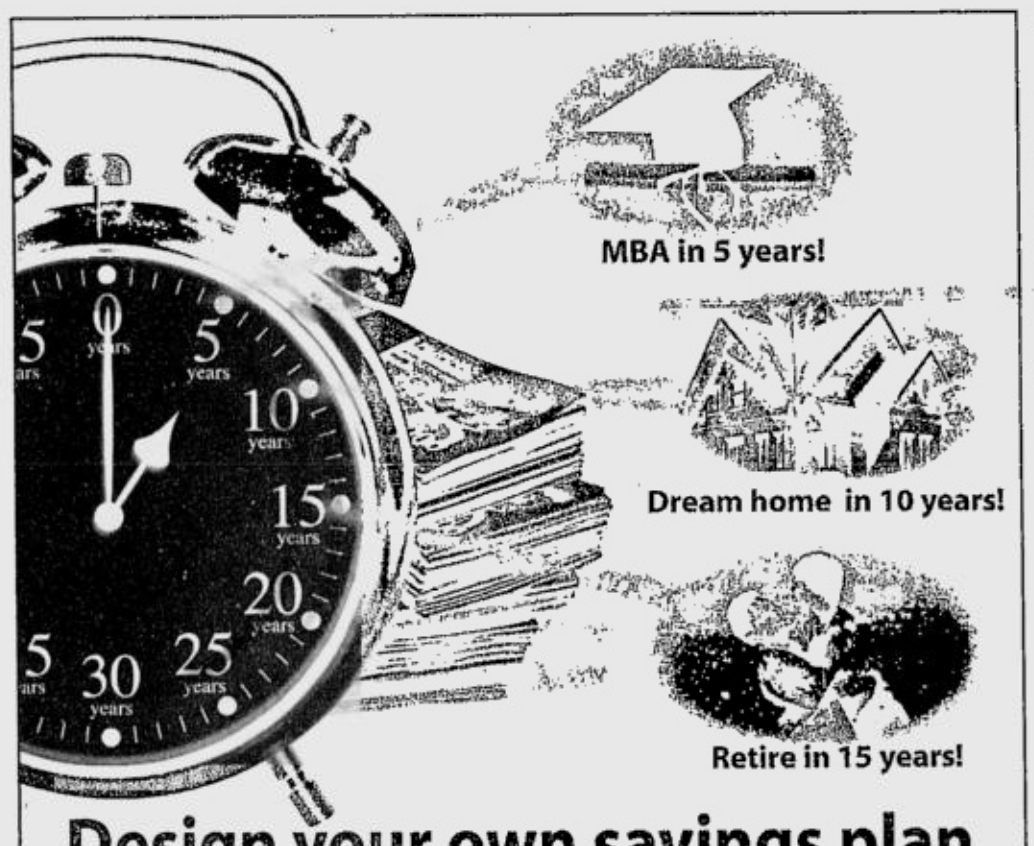
More importantly, BPI recognizes that behind every product or service delivered is a story of a dream that has flourished beyond expectation - stories that BPI has helped support. So today, what we are in fact celebrating is:

- 154 years of depositing smiles
- 154 years of funding dreams and hopes
- 154 years of investing in peace of mind
- 154 years of safekeeping the future
- 154 years of creating good cheers
- 154 years of strengthening performance

Because BPI recognizes that we are not just in the business of banking... we are in the business of fulfilling dreams.

So as we celebrate our 154th anniversary, we would like to thank our customers and the general public at large. We are inviting all of them to visit our BPI, BPI Family Bank and Express Banking Centers to celebrate with us.

Finally, BPI would also want to thank its employees... because behind every satisfied BPI customer is a satisfied employee. BPI is truly supportive of the passion for service and excellence exhibited by its employees by bringing joy to those who have helped make the 154 years possible... the Unibanker. BPI's interest clubs ensure that not only is a BPI employee given the career opportunities... but also work-life-leisure balance in the form of the interest clubs.



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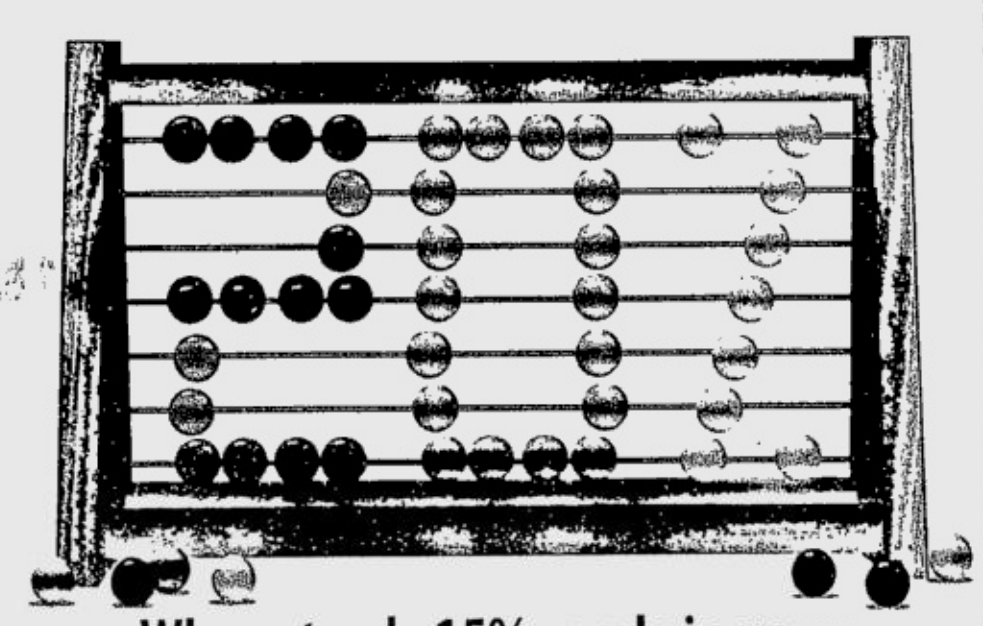

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Whatever happened to narrative painting?

By Constantino C. Tejero

NARRATIVE used to be a requisite of image-making. It was one of the strongest characteristics of academic art, from the romantic tableaux of Delacroix to the historical pageants of Hidalgo and Luna.

These pieces still look splendid today, but they now have a musty air about them. Storytelling in painting these days has been mostly consigned to magazine and book illustrations.

But there are still a few who believe the hoary technique deserves to be resurrected. And what do you know—it finds a champion in the champion of the avant-garde himself, Roberto Chabet.

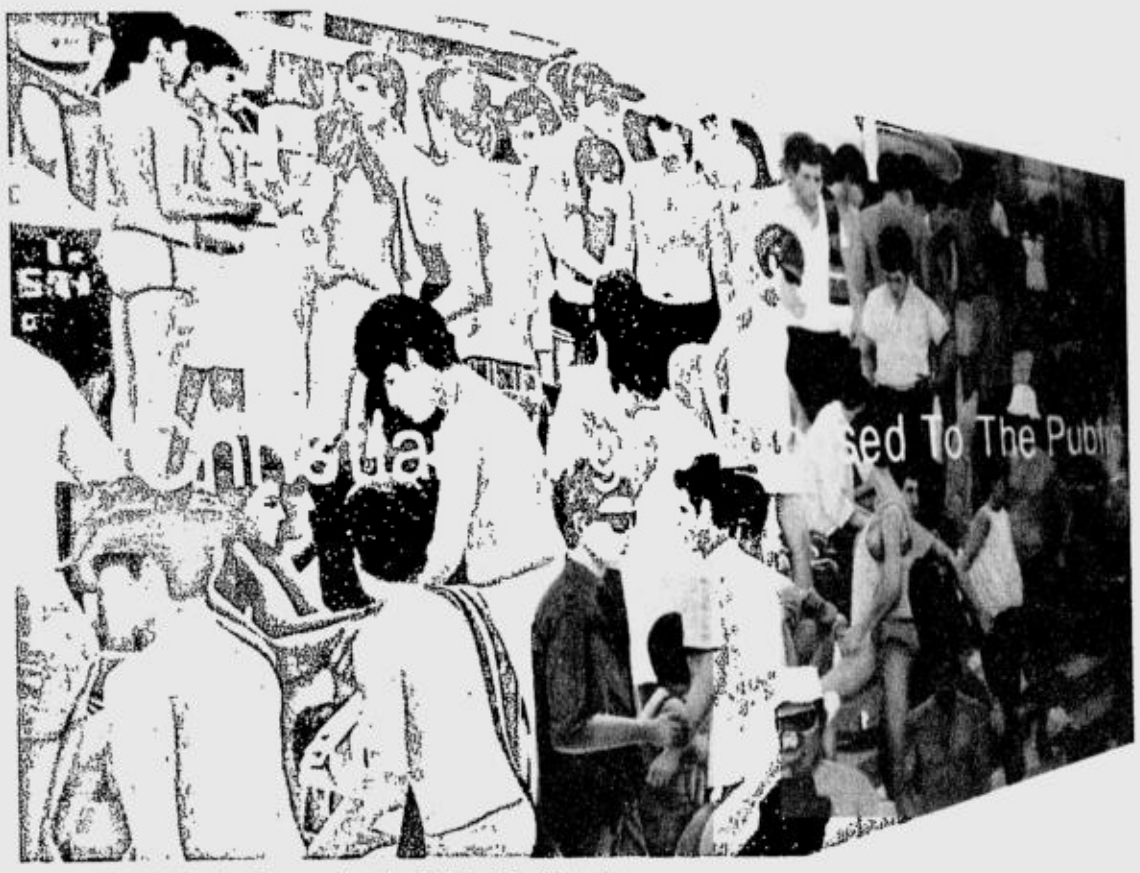
"Figurative art involves telling a story, or at the very least takes us to a certain place and time," says Chabet.

And so he chose six young artists, four of them his former students at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, to illustrate his idea. Assembling the storytelling techniques of Alfredo Esquillo, Lawrence Borsoto, Wire Tuazon, Nona Garcia, Geraldine Javier and Patty Eustaquio, he curates their artworks ranging from installation to pieces in oil on canvas.

Now the narrative can be appreciated again in "Parallel Stories, presented by West Gallery until Aug. 2, in the Art Center at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

"DRAWING the Spirit," by Geraldine Javier

"EYE in the Wall," by Javier



"CHRISTIAN Virgins Exposed to the Public," by Wire Tuazon

"SCENE of the Crime," by Nona Garcia

Opaque storytelling

But Chabet—or his students—can't be expected, of course, to leave it at that and not give the old horse a shot in the leg.

In this exhibit, storytelling is no longer straight as the narrative has been given a twist.

Typical is Wire Tuazon's "Resurrecting Resurrection," where in his characteristic postmodernist fashion he subverts the old narrative.

Culling images from 1960s photographs, the artist has created in oil on canvas a continuous imagery of youngsters in bikinis and swimming trunks thronging on a beach. Simple enough. But then Tuazon has inscribed across the canvas an intertitle: *Christian Virgins Exposed to the Public*.

The intertitle is simultaneously punning on Hidalgo's middle name while alluding to his most famous painting. And the young flesh is now no longer of virgins given up for ravishment, but of beachcombers strutting off their ware for ogling by the public.

Eustaquio chooses to be more opaque in storytelling. "Goodbye, Cruel World" is an installation of stoneware, fresh flowers, paintings of a dead bird and of an iris flower.

Composed in the manner of 17th-century Dutch still lifes, the whole is supposed to portray the cycle of life and death. But we'd rather categorize it as a poem than a story.

Enigmatic images

In some of the paintings, the viewer knows something is happening but he has to fill up the narrative. Such is Geraldine Javier's "Chasing Ghosts," a series of enigmatic images in monochrome.

In "Drawing the Spirit," two black-veiled figures bearing a censer are climbing up the stairs. Monks in a mystico-cryptic ritual? Ghost-hunting?

In "Eye in the Wall," the cropped figure of a black-dressed woman with back turned to the viewer is sitting at the foot of a bed. She is holding the leash of a black dog on the floor. Whom is she waiting for, and what is it guarding against?

In "Scene of the Crime," by Nona Garcia, an artist noted for her minutely detailed superrealist images, a bedroom is a shambles. Apparently it has been burglarized.

What else have occurred here? Was the thief caught? Is anyone killed? Has someone been raped? The possibilities are endless.

Esquillo's large-scale painting "Survivor, P.I." demonstrates that "the stories never end with the artist as the main author, but continue with every viewer discovering personal connections."

Unlike in a Delacroix piece, for instance, where the viewer knows beforehand the mythological or historical background of what he is seeing, here he is plunged into the dark and left to his own devices to make his way into the light.

In their very opacity, these pieces actually enrich storytelling.

Ateneo Art Award finalists at Power Plant; lamp art at Avellana

POWER Plant Mall's North Court presents the 2005 Ateneo Art Awards exhibition "Cross Encounters" on Aug. 2-7. Call 8981702.

OLAN Ventura looks beyond the confines of his home in "Pinoys' Idols." On view Aug. 4-16 at West Gallery, SM Megamall, are Ventura's interpretations of popular Pinoy icons, especially in the way they are copied or spoofed by the ordinary folk. Call 6341284.

VISUAL ARTS

FINALE Makati presents Jay Ticar's "Clouds of Swirling Arrows" until Aug. 13, at 4/F, LaO Centre, Pasay Road cor. Makati Ave. The artist merges abstraction and representation with visual patterns that ripple all over the two-dimensional surface of the canvas and images appropriated from art history. Call 8151813 or 8104071.

IN "ALL That Heaven Allows," Lena Cobangbang recreates images of disaster. The artist arranges leftover food into miniature landscapes and then photographs them in a 20" x 30" format. The show runs Aug. 4-16, at Finale Art Gallery.

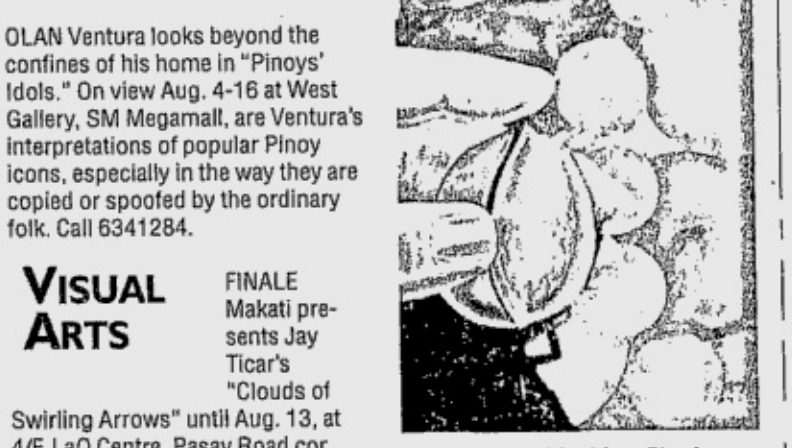
THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila's Tall Galleries presents

"DARK Cloud Inside a Shady Room," by Jay Ticar

"Artes at Angkan: Power, Patronage and Production in the 19th Century," Aug. 4-Sept. 3, at BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila. A section of the exhibition will introduce Quiapo as a microcosm of the forces and ideas that were animating Philippine life. Call 5237855 or 5240876.

THE CUBICLE Art Gallery showcases Jucar Raquepo's "Artwork Detailing" until Aug. 10. The exhibit features abstract compositions on paper done in acrylic, enhanced by dif-

ATENEO/ C8



EDNA Garcia Chan mounts "City Lights," an exhibit of lamps as functional art, which opens today at Avellana Art Gallery. The lamps, eight pieces in all, are cuboid beauties in metal, glossed over by a silver polyurethane finish. Balanced on precarious stands nuanced with gold detailing, they verge between the mathematics of geometry and the spontaneity of art. A harsh white light springs from the inside tamed by etched, marbled or frosted glass, filling the room with a glow. The artist says each lamp is inspired by a famous city as evoked by its motif. "Tokyo" whispers minimalism with its four, bare rectangular windows while "Paris" reflects the ornate French sensibility with blooms of fleur-de-lis. The lamp is meant to illuminate the viewer's path toward a certain mood or memory of a place. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 FB Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 4569 Series of 2005.

"GLIMPSES of His Glory," by Lucy Vergara Fernando

"SAN Roque Confessor," attributed to Antonio Malantic

Ateneo Art Award

From page C7

ferent textural paint mediums, and detailed with miniature race-car stickers. Cubicle Art Gallery is at C. Raymundo cor. Stella Maris St., Maybunga, Pasig. Call 6416700.

GALERIA de las Islas presents Benny Buendia's "Glimpse of the Countryside" until Sept. 30, at 744 Gen. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit features scenic country scenes rendered in oil on canvas. Call 5272113.

ART Informal offers beginner-level pottery workshops starting Aug. 2, 6-9 p.m. It will be facilitated by Japan-trained stoneware sculptor Pablo Capati. Call 7258518. Art Informal is at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong.

AYALA Museum features the following workshops: Intermediate Jewelry-Making, Aug. 4, 11, 25 and Sept. 1, 2-5 p.m.; Drawing with Pastels, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2-5 p.m.; Painting Plants and Flowers, Aug. 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Papermaking and Book Arts, Aug. 13-Sept. 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Printmaking Series, Aug. 14, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 2-5 p.m. Call 7577117.

Benitez tracks folklore in new show

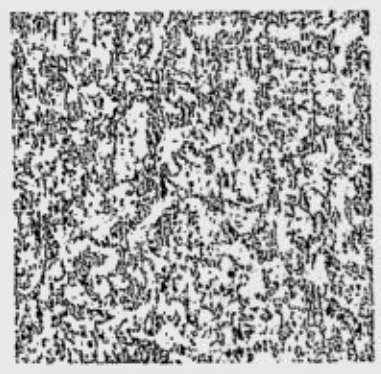
IN HIS fifth solo exhibition of mixed-media works, Bienvenido Benitez retells various fables, rhymes and legends.

The 15 pieces integrate materials ranging from shells to fabric, *abaca* mats and discarded cement packaging. Coupled with washes, glazes, drips, scratches and other techniques in an admixture of oil and industrial acrylic, the materials inform the spaces and imbue the surfaces with certain depth.

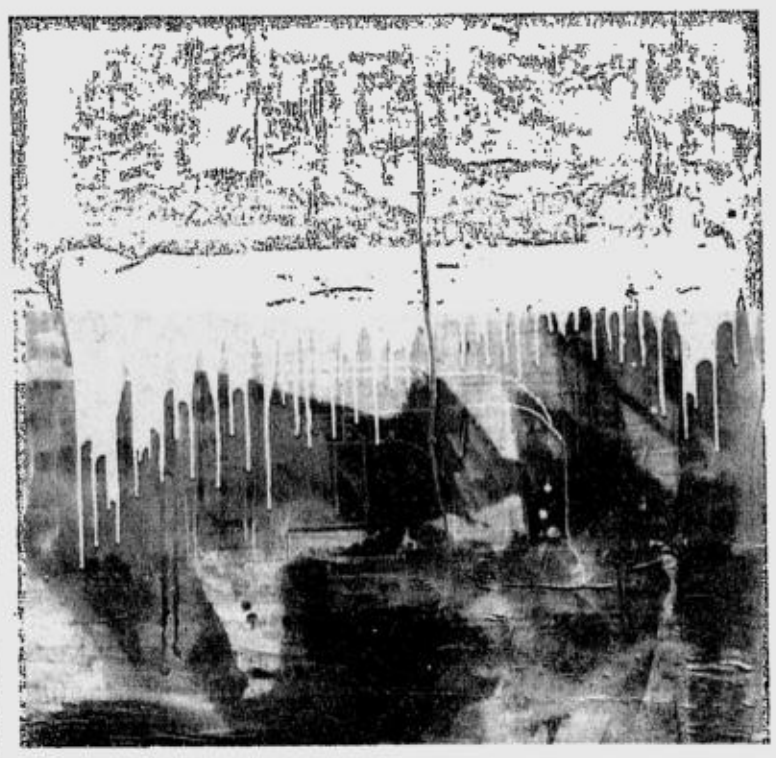
With each new layer, the surface takes on a different manifestation so that the final, accrued surface retains the memory of previous layerings. Benitez, thus, portrays how the stories of folklore have come to us through innumerable changes and derivations. The pieces have a sense of experiential history.

Often, due to hazy memory, translation or whimsy, details from the narratives are lost, modified, appended to or spliced from other accounts, leading to a nebulous territory of reconstituted fictions.

"MALAKAS at Maganda"



"VISUAL Vocabulary"



"SARIMANOK"

Benitez uses substantial layering with distortive distributions of strokes and overlapping fields of color as aids in reminding us of the process of fabrication and translation. Benitez regards these modifications neither as violations of tradition nor as results of clerical shortcomings, but a vital and unavoidable process of cultural production.

"Woven Tales" will run on Aug. 4-Sept. 11, at Pasilyo Guillermo Tolentino, 3/F Hallway, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

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Self-fulfilling 'Prophecy'

"The Romanov Prophecy"
By Steve Berry
Balantine Books, New York,
2005, 384 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

JUDGING by its title, look and premise, Steve Berry's historical novel, "The Romanov Prophecy," is certainly not shy about being compared with Dan Brown's path through puzzles of the past, "The Da Vinci Code." In fact, the cover blurb announces it.

Among the many novels seeking the same fortune as "The Da Vinci Code," it is at once an upstart striving for the same audience as well as a different book altogether.

For one, "The Da Vinci Code" felt like a Renaissance trivia trove with a labyrinthine plot intricately woven through it. Brown's prose was dense and unabashedly nerdy; the book was as often as complicated, confusing as it was intoxicating. As the motion picture adaptation hovers on the horizon, followers wonder if the book can even be adapted.

It was "The Da Vinci Code's" flaws—the reveling in minutiae, the overheated action, the improbably capable hero in Dr. Robert Langdon—that made it different, and, for many, special.

"The Romanov Prophecy" is the polar opposite. It's an extremely sleek, manicured yarn with controversial and yet well-known historical facts and theories as its take-off point. Berry's prose is compact and accessible, and while his hero, the black lawyer (who just happened, naturally, to be a former athlete) Miles Lord, is somewhat similar to Langdon, the plot itself is so well-oiled, so efficient, "Prophecy" already feels like a movie-of-the-week script.

Not that it is without its charms. "Prophecy" follows Lord as he helps prepare modern-day Russia for an improbable yet significant event, the naming of a new Tsar. With all of Russia's ailments as a nation, a return to the monarchy is deemed the solution, and the Tsarist Commission, which Lord monitors, will select the new Russian ruler.

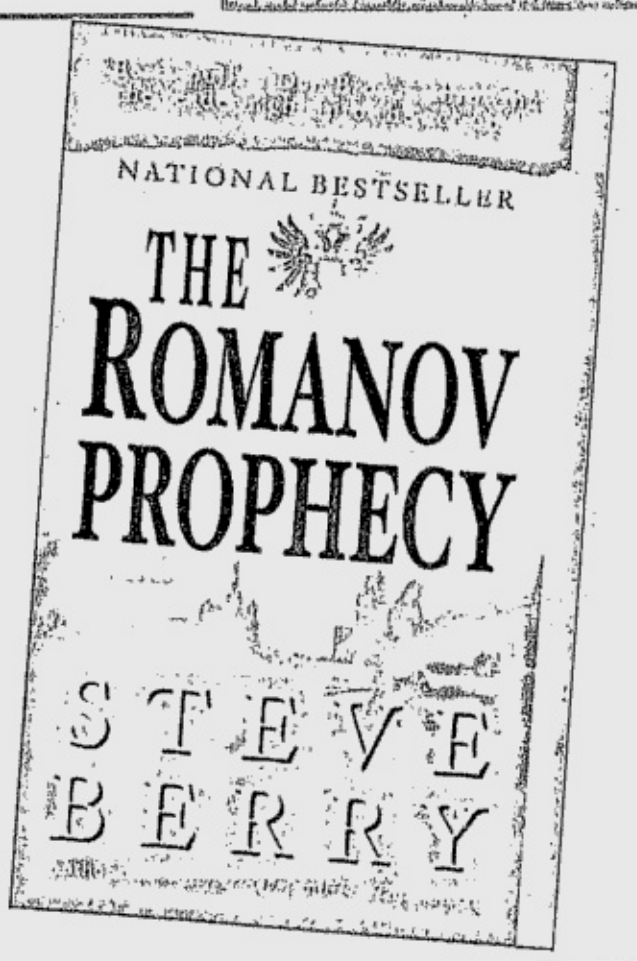
Lord looks on as the favorite, Stefan Baklanov, seeks to be Stefan I. Yet after a botched attempt on his life, Lord realizes there is much more happening here. As he runs for his life, he discovers by looking through the archives a secret prophecy spoken by Rasputin himself, one that may link him to an imperial secret and a deadly conspiracy.

Catchy

Built around the rumors and research about Rasputin, the execution of Nicholas II's family and the conspiracy theory surrounding Nicholas' children Alexei and Anastasia, "Prophecy's" central conceit is both a preposterous and catchy one: The royal line may have survived somehow.

Together with the beautiful Russian circus

SELF-FULFILLING/D2



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NEW York-based chefs Paul Agoncillo and Romy Dorotan.

Philippine book arrives in New York

CHANDRU Ramnani, Leon Araneta, author Karla Delgado and Frank-Willem De Witt

IT WAS a full moon in New York. Downtown, along the cobblestone streets of SoHo, Pinoys and their Western cohorts made their way to Cendrillon.

Proudly celebrating its 10th year as a SoHo eatery, the cozy *merienda* bar served as the venue for a book reading by Karla Delgado on July 21.

Stepping in from the muggy New York heat, guests were welcomed by owners Amy Besa and Romy Dorotan with glasses of chilled lemongrass water, white wine and piping-hot mini *bibingkas*.

Giant, undulating wall lamps by artist Perry Mamaril cast a warm glow on the brick walls of the restaurant. A projector beamed images of market produce—close-ups of tomatoes, beans, eggplants, interspersed with smiling vendors—all taken by photographer Neal Oshima for "Philippine Markets," the latest in Centro Escolar University's Centennial Book Collection.

It was a mini reunion of sorts for the Filipino community in New York. Spotted in the crowd were longtime New Yorkers like Mutya Shaw and Stephanie Osmeña. Charming couple Albert and Eva Florentino made it after learning about the reading in The Filipino Reporter.

Poet Luis Francia gave a lovely introduction, saying that when he first met author Delgado, she was a fresh-faced Harvard graduate who got her first job as an editorial assistant at The Village Voice. "She's still fresh-faced, but more than that, she has an inner grace."

Delgado read passages from "Market Sketches," a section of the book that captures markets at different times of day. The audience enjoyed excerpts from the lively chef profiles at the back of the book.

For "Philippine Markets," 12 of the country's most imaginative and successful chefs were invited to cook with the freshest ingredients from regional market baskets.

See what Fernando Aracama, Glenda Barretto, Larry Cruz, Henry Cheung, Margarita Fores, Louie Llamado, Ariel Manuel, Paul Poblador, Ed Quimson, Myrna Segismundo, José Sotto and Claude Tayag offer up.

"Philippine Markets" is available at the Filipinas Heritage Library, National Book Store and PowerBooks.

AAI's dream cast for "Once on This Island"

Powerhouse cast reunites for hit musical 'Once on This Island'

THE MUSICAL that was the talk of the town for months will tread the boards once more, reuniting what is considered to be one of the most dazzling casts of musical theater talents in recent memory.

With names like Bituin Escalante, Radha, Jett Pangan, Michael Williams, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael de Mesa, Jeffrey Hidalgo, May Bayot, Gala Sanchez, Bodjie Pascua and sensational newcomers Raki Vega and Kristian Lei alternating as Ti Moune, Actor's Actors Inc.'s (AAI) smash hit musical, "Once on This Island," features stellar performances that have had both critics and audiences raving for more.

The production also earned plaudits for the choreography of Denisa Reyes, production design of Gino Gonzales, light design of John Batalla, musical direction of CJ Javier, and stage direction of Bart Guingona.

The appeal of the musical, beginning with its infectious Caribbean-inspired music, its elemental tale of lovers and gods, and its colorful cast of characters, makes it a near-perfect evening of sheer delight for the entire family.

"Once on this Island" will have repeat performances on Aug. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 in Carlos P. Romulo Theater at the RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati, with Friday and Saturday evening performances at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets available at TicketWorld (8919999). Or call 0917-8155794.

Various editions of 'Don Quixote' on exhibit at UST library

SPANISH Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz and University of Santo Tomas (UST) Rector Magnificus Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P., will open the exhibit "400 Years of Don Quixote and the UST Library," on Aug. 2 at 6 p.m. at the UST Central Library Building.

The exhibit will commemorate the 1605 publication in Madrid of the first part of Miguel de Cervantes' "El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha," considered by writers and critics as the first and the greatest modern novel.

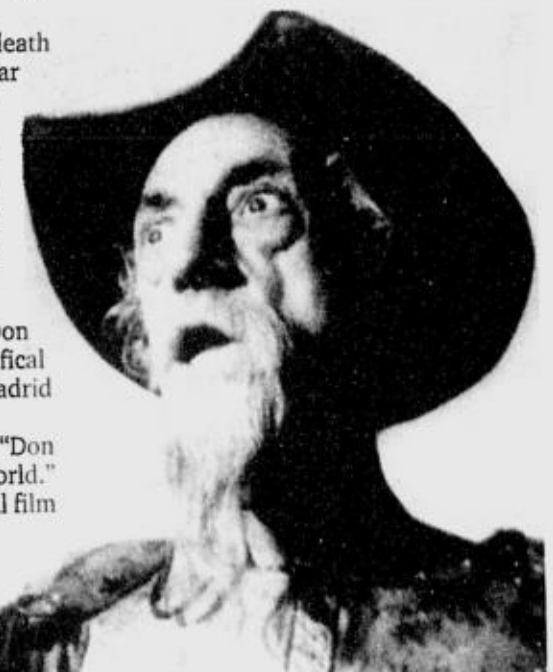
The exhibit also marks the 400th death anniversary of the Dominican friar Miguel de Benavides, the third bishop of Manila and the founder of UST. It was Benavides' donation of P1,500 and his own library before he died in 1605, the year "Don Quixote" was published, that led to the establishment in 1611 of UST, the oldest university in Asia.

On exhibit are 18 old editions of "Don Quixote" in the collection of the Pontifical University, the oldest being a 1780 Madrid edition.

Also on exhibit are panels on "Don Quixote: 400 Years Around the World." There will also be a showing of several film adaptations of the novel.

A storytelling session with Vivien Mangalindan is set on Aug. 23. National Artist F. Sionil José will lecture on "A Filipino Writer's Quixotic Adventure" on Aug. 25.

The exhibits are organized by the Instituto Cervantes under director Javier Galan and the UST Central Library under prefect of libraries, Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. The public is invited.



A SCENE from the film adaptation of "Don Quixote"

Self-fulfilling 'Prophecy'

From page D1

performer Akilina Petrovna (you read that correctly), Lord races to find the true heir while a shadowy circle seeks to thwart him by all means necessary.

"Prophecy" races forward breathlessly as can be expected, with derring-do, lots of secrets being told, graves being found, shots being fired, long, long letters read, and identities uncovered, as Lord races from Russia to the United States in his quest. There is betrayal, discovery and, oh boy, a whole lot of coincidences. Perhaps way too much.

Seriously, a Russian circus performer? Borzois named Alexei and Anastasia? Bad guys code-named Lenin, Khrushchev, Stalin and Brezhnev? A hero named Miles Lord?

The readers who found "The Da Vinci Code's" riddles too convoluted and its plot too uneven will find "Prophecy" more to their liking. It's a slightly brainier airport read than one would expect and, if one has read enough airport reads, easy to figure out.

Berry's book is extremely accessible and the plot twists even somewhat fun even if the prophecy itself is a bunch of hooey. It's unpretentious, if also profoundly unambitious, adventure; "Prophecy" is just not as inspired as Brown's book.

However the blurb might have it, "Prophecy" is not the next "Code": that would be the next Langdon book, "The Solomon Key," which is still in the works.

In a new world full of would-be Dan Browns, Steve Berry's "The Romanov Prophecy" is a competent try at historical mystery and a likeable book for a lazy afternoon or a layover at the airport, but not one that will last the test of the Tsar's time.

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

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Magical launch of new 'Harry Potter' book

POWERBOOKS treated "Harry Potter" fans during the launch of Book 6 of the series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

PowerBooks opened its doors at 7:01 a.m. on July 16, the date of the worldwide release of the book.

The day-long event featured different arts and crafts activities. Participants made their own Wizard's Hat and Wand, and decorated their own Golden Snitch.

Those who came dressed as a "Harry Potter" character got to compete for the Costume Contest while many of the guests took pleasure in checking out the many shops that populated Diagon Alley.

People also shopped for Harry Potter shirts and other items they would need to complete their Back-to-Hogwarts school list.

The first 500 customers who presented a PowerBooks receipt of a Harry Potter Book 6 purchase received a set of coupons that entitled them to free food, merchandise, face-painting and a chance to dress up as a Hogwarts student or teacher, and have an instant photo taken in front of special Harry Potter backdrops.

There was a Hunt for the Golden Snitch instant prize booth open to the public and the Pinoy Harry Potter Club conducted a "Sorting" for all the kids present.

GRYFFINDOR! A young Harry Potter look-alike gets sorted in one of the booths.

Everybody was able to peruse the exhibit of the Diorama Contest finalists set up in the area, while magicians performed street magic.

The event's main program, hosted by MTV VJ Patty Laurel and Robbie Joseph, featured an illusionist's performance, the parade of Costume Contest participants, numerous games and raffles, the Trivia Contest elimination and final rounds, and the awarding of winners of the various competitions like the Reservation Promo, Art Contest, Costume Contest, Trivia Contest and Diorama Contest.

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a full-service specialty bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075) and Shangri-La (6380023/25).

I CAN'T wait anymore! A young fan reads "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

POTTER wannabes. Costume Contest finalists, event hosts Patty Laurel and Robbie Joseph

COLORFUL Harry Potter Diorama Contest entries

CELEBRITY mom Pia Magalona, sons Arkina and Elmo, with PowerBooks marketing manager Chet Martinez

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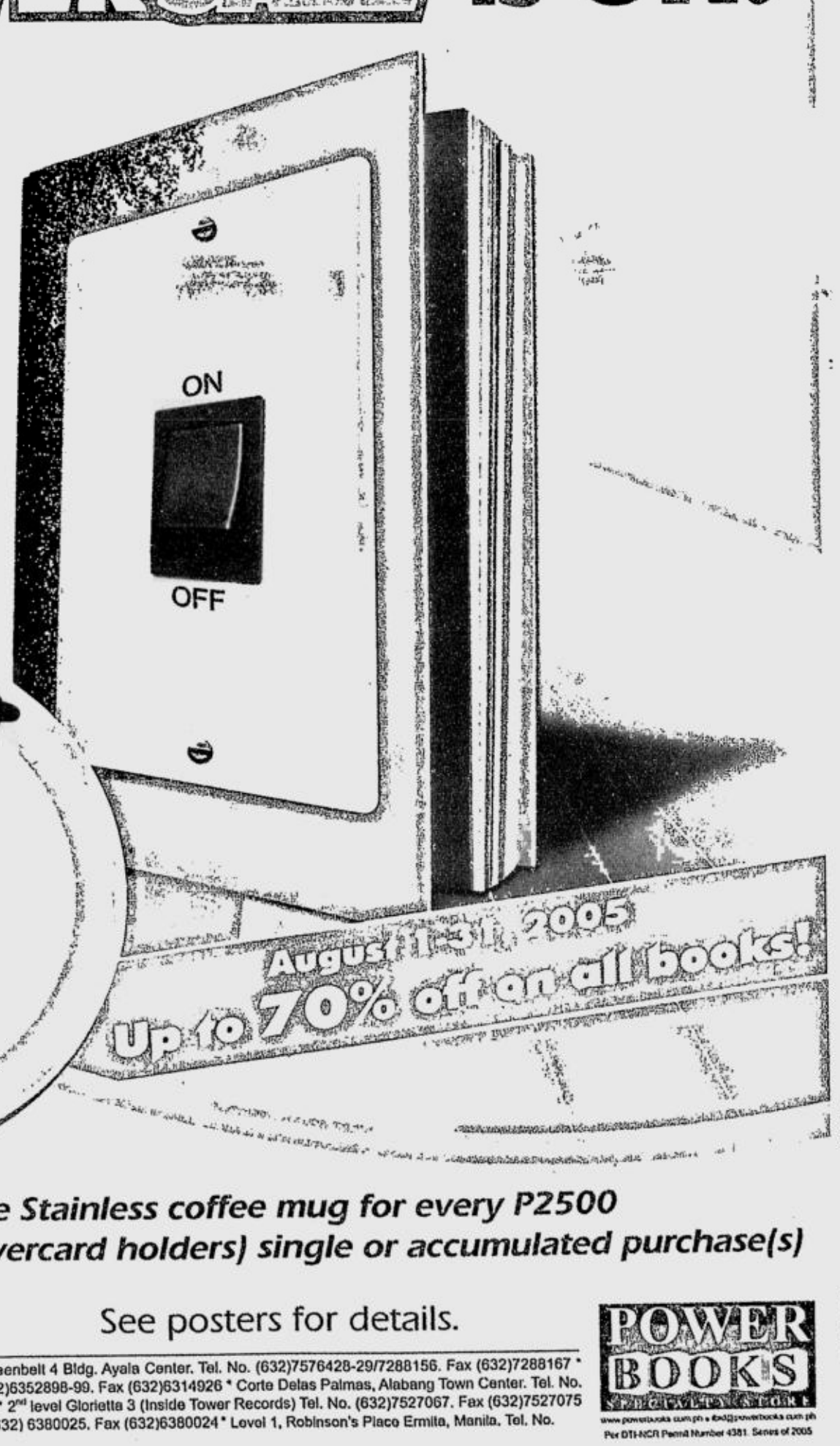

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SHIFT_the future

Mr. & Ms. August edition features personal encounters with the next life

THE AUGUST issue of Mr. & Ms. Magazine features beautiful TV couple, Anne Curtis and Luis Manzano, on the cover.

The 30-year-old magazine is reinventing itself as "the Super-monthly of the Mind, the Body, and the Spirit."

Revered media personality Emily Abrera shares the second installment of her personal account on her conversations with her dead husband, Caloy, via a medium. Supreme Court Justice Adolf Azcuna and wife Mariasun relate their encounters with lost spirits.

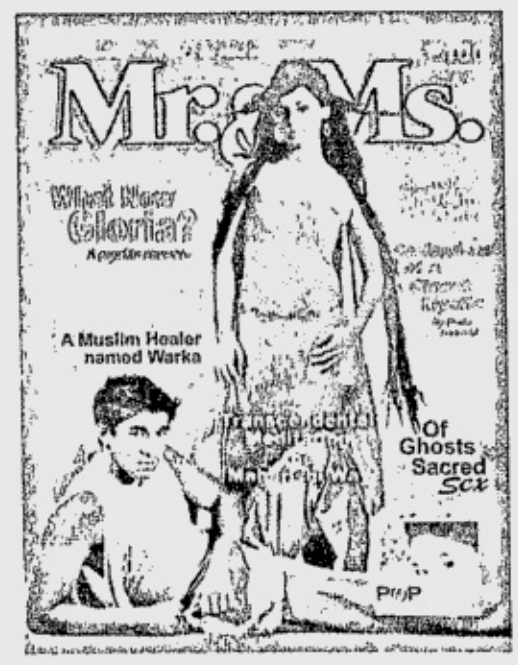
Also, well-respected Haydee Yorac reveals her near-death experience. There's also a discussion on the mystical experience of near-death. Philanthropist Imelda Cojuangco talks about her miraculous recovery from illness. Businesswoman Carmen de Vera-Yulo reveals her "butterfly" passion, complete with wonderful pictures of her Canlubang paradise.

Psychic Georgina Solina looks at the future of the President aptly titled, "Gloriagate, According to the Stars." Jaime Licauco writes about Asian mysticism and Filipino superstition.

Other articles: the sacredness of sex; hot couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's sexual compatibility; hypnotic communication by Jaime Bulatao, S.J.; "Confessions of a Closet Mystic" by Doris Trinidad; "duwendes" in the garden of a posh village; Mariel Francisco's book review of "Awakening the Third Eye"; and Aida Sevilla-Mendoza's ghost story with a twist.

Other articles: "The Spiritual Quest of Miguel de Benavides," about the third bishop of Manila and the founder of the University of Santo Tomas; "Angels and Prayers"; "Transcendental Meditation" by couple Poli and Josephine Castillo; "A Muslim Healer named Warka"; and the word love as a lucky charm in movie titles.

Columns: Movies this August, Recipes, Food, Fashion, Beauty, Fitness, a cute Baby Gallery, Horoscope, a Directory of Psychic Services, and Gay Rap and Rainbow Crossings, columns for lesbians and gays.



Sawikaan seminar at UP

THE FILIPINAS Institute of Translation, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Blas F. Ople Foundation, and UP College of Arts and Letters sponsor "Sawikaan 2005: Salita ng Taon," a conference that looks at the dynamics of the Filipino language, focusing on the preceding year's new/popular words or phrases that dominated the local socio-cultural discourses and experiences as discussion points.

The conference will be held on Aug. 4-5 at the Pulungang Claro M. Recto, College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman.

Russian, Malaysian and Chinese scholars—Vladimir F. Malyshev, Zaini bin Oje and Shirley Sy—will present papers on how their respective governments implemented policies that helped developed a national language in their countries.

Also, media professionals Dely Magpayo, Ariel Borlongan and Jim Libiran, will speak on how the mass media can help develop and modernize the Filipino language.

The book "Sawikaan 2004," published by the UP Press, will be launched during the conference. UP chancellor Sergio S. Cao is the guest of honor.

Well-known and respected writers like Prof. Randy David, Dr. Roland B. Tolentino, Dr. Delfin Tolentino, Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, Rene O. Villanueva, are among the contributors.

The main event is the presentation of candidates for the Word of the Year. Presenters come from De La Salle University, Ateneo de Manila, UP and FEU. The others are independent writers. The list of candidate words include "*pasaway*," "call center," "e-vat," "blog," "wiretapping," "networking," and "tsunami."

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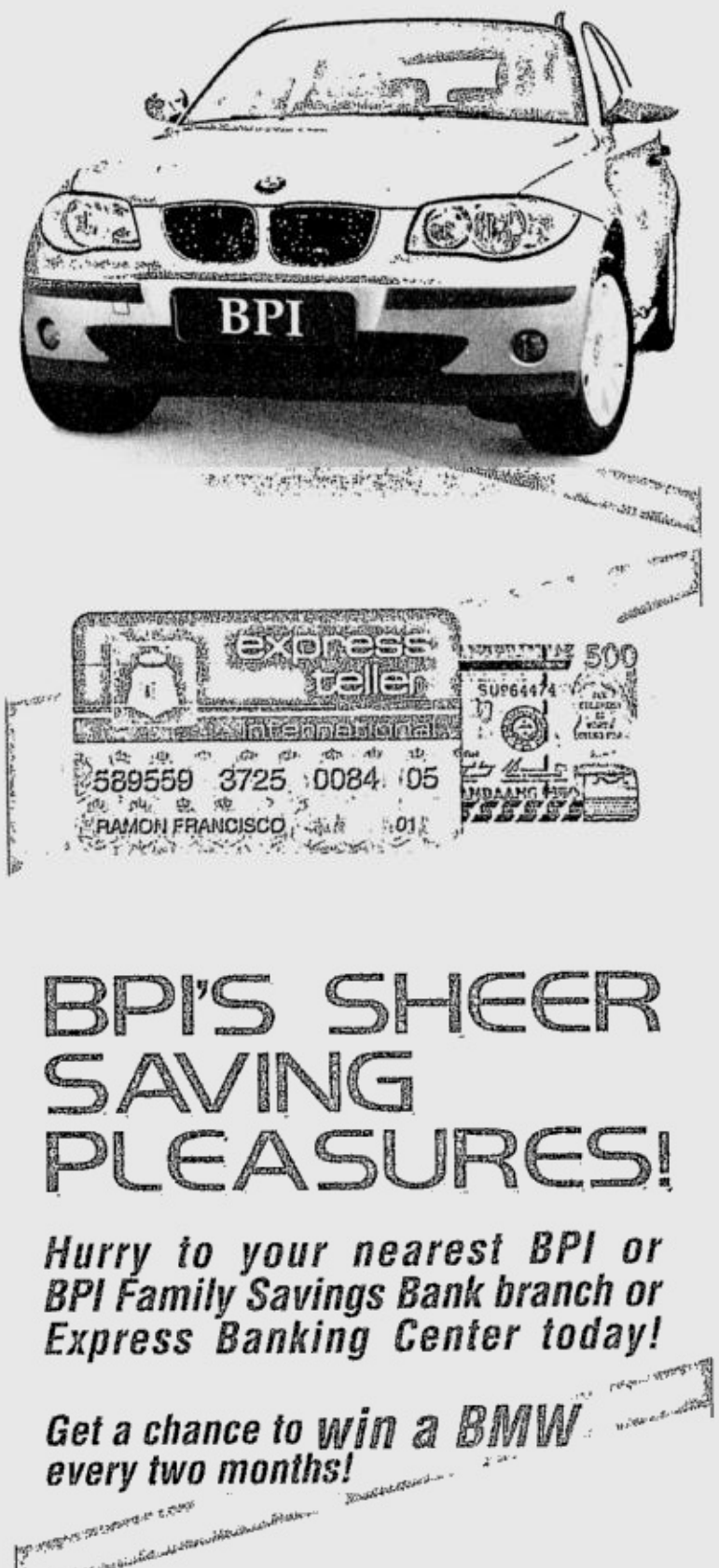

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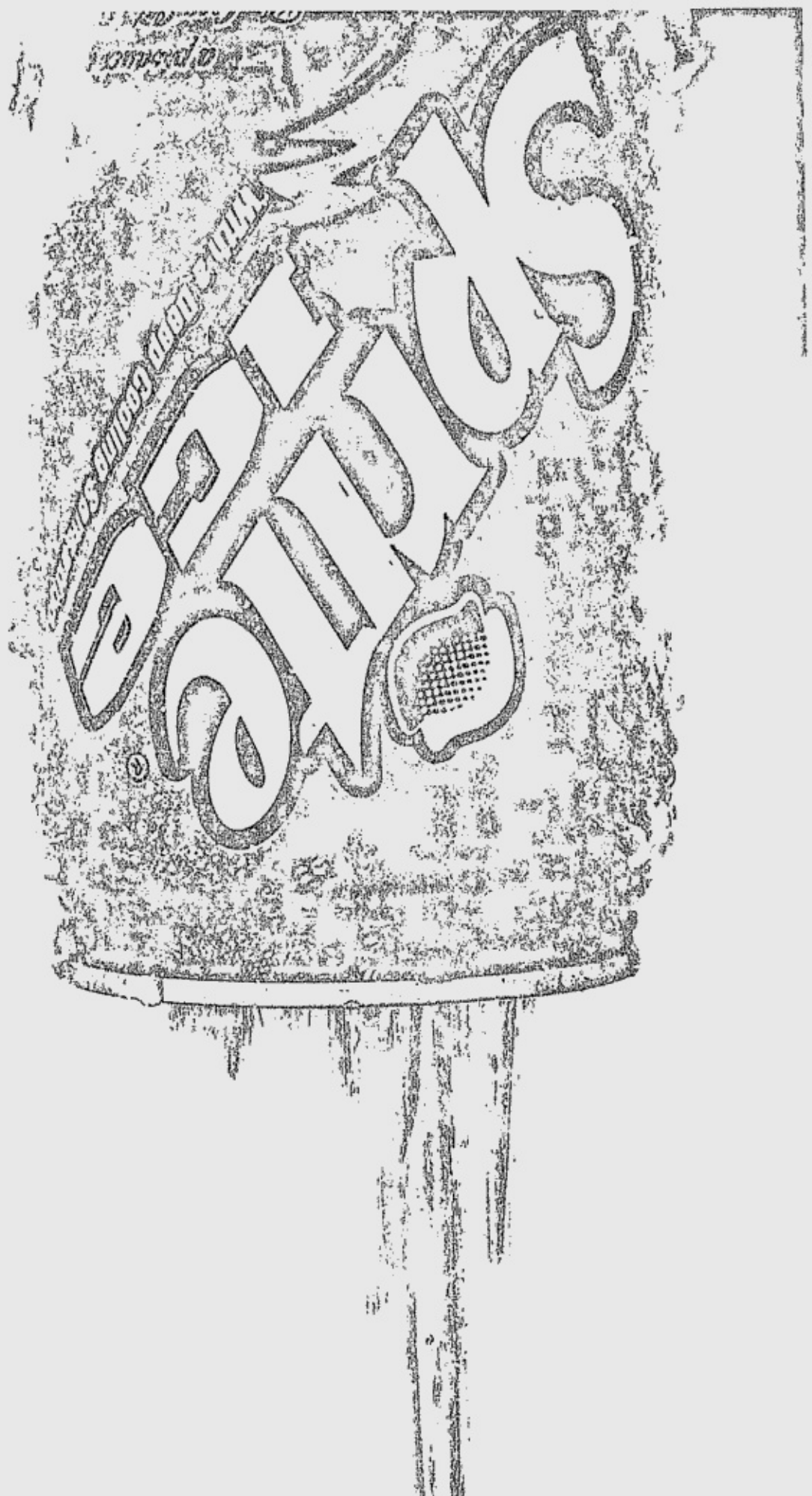

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PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

Stratmark Conference, Competition caps National Marketing Month

Three years ago, the month of July was declared as the National Marketing Month (NMM). This celebration is a time when the marketing discipline takes center stage and the players of the game all converged to an exchange of ideas, practices and keeping up with the latest trends to arm themselves in this dynamic field.

This year's celebration of the National Marketing Month has pushed the envelope in creating a synergy between some of the integral figures in the industry, and at its forefront is the Philippine Marketing Association. This was more evident with the Philippine Marketing Association, along with the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) and support from the Philippine Junior Marketing Associations (PJMA) which held the Strategic Marketing Conference and Competition held July 29 at the Araneta Coliseum.

But just what encompasses this annual celebration of the NMM? Ruby Ramores, director of the 2005 celebration, explains in detail: "The National Marketing Month is celebrated by all chapters nationwide, with each having their own set of events. As for the National chapter, a special seminar was conducted for marketing and business educators in collaboration with the PACSB; a Marketing in Government Seminar for government officials; and the highlight of the event, the Strategic Marketing Conference and Competition".

With its theme "Marketing Convergence at Work", the 2005 Strategic Marketing Conference and Competition is literally and figuratively "convergence at work" according to AME President Rodelon Del Mundo, literally, because it is a convergence of two associations, namely the Philippine Marketing Association and the Association of Marketing Educators, and figuratively because it is a convergence of the theory (students and educators), and of practice (current marketing professionals). Seeing the conference as an "avenue for students to alternate viewpoints and get attuned to what is going on in the marketing discipline", Del Mundo hopes to sustain the said convergence in order to achieve the vision of producing future world-class marketing executives.

In addition, Philippine Marketing Association president Donald Lim considers the Conference and Contest as a "monumental historic event", since this is the first time that the two groups, namely, Philippine Marketing Association and AME held the event together. "We used to do this both separately, but now we decided to just do it together and triple what we usually come up with", adds Lim.

The conference was the first half of the culmination that was attended by an estimated 7,100 students from 51 schools nationwide. Marketing leaders who imparted their knowledge included Angelica Suiza, marketing director of Adidas Philippines; Paolo Eugenio Baltao, segment head of business development for Globe Telecom; Grace Magno, marketing head of the Araneta Group of Companies and Joselito Ortega, CEO of Brandlab Inc.

The second half featured the Marketing Competition which had six top schools competing out of 38 who applied. The idea behind the competition, as Lim puts it, is to "find out which school has the best critical thinkers and who knows how to apply concepts into practice". In order to eliminate bias, the schools were given code names so both judges and audiences alike did not know which school each presenter was coming from. In the end, it was the team from the University of the Philippines-Diliman which took top honors, followed by the team from the Ateneo De Manila University at 2nd, and De La Salle University-Dasmariñas at 3rd. Other finalists were Far Eastern University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines and University of the Philippines-Visayas.

It was a festive mood in the Big Dome as students were treated with not only useful insights from the main movers in the Marketing scene, but also from the giveaways and a special musical performance from acoustic pop band MYMP.

Messages

The Strategic Marketing Conference and Competition is the biggest event of the Philippine Marketing Association every marketing month of July. This year, together with the Association of Marketing Educators, we rewrite history by converging seven thousand marketing students for the conference to listen to top-notch marketing professionals who are experts in their respective fields. The conference aims to allow students to get real life ideas and experience from marketing professionals, that they may know and integrate theory and practice.

The Strategic Marketing Competition, on the other hand, saw over thirty schools trying to outdo each other in coming up with the best marketing plan. The case this year on Ali Mall is quite tough, but I was happy to realize that our marketing students were well trained to take on any business case. Truly, the future of Philippine marketing will be on excellent hands.

My heartfelt gratitude to the Association of Marketing Educators for the partnership in this event, and my congratulations to all the winners.

DONALD LIM
President
Philippine Marketing Association

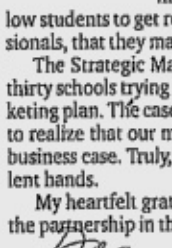
Future marketing professionals gathered again during the Strategic Marketing Conference 2005 on July 29 at the Araneta Coliseum. It was organized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) and Association of Marketing Educators of the Philippines (AME).

The landmark event converged the complementary forces of industry and the academe so that future marketing professionals will be well-equipped with better and effective ways of marketing goods and services. It further strengthened the quality of marketing education in the country with the vision of producing world-class marketing executives who are responsive to the needs of the business community.

Ultimately, this endeavor affirmed that marketing convergence was realized when PMA and AME renewed its advocacy in producing world-class marketing practitioners.

In behalf of AME, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our partner-the PMA, sponsors, conference executive committee, staff, AME officers, board of directors and members, deans, department chairs, and faculty of participating schools.

RODEL DEL MUNDO
President
Association of Marketing Educators (Philippines)



Greetings!

We at the Philippine Marketing Association are so touched and enervated in the enthusiasm you have shown in coming to our Stratmark 2005.

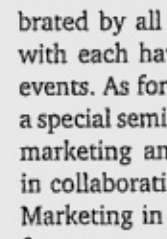
As one scrutinized the goals of the conference, we are unanimous in saying that marketing students are genuinely concerned about the designated role of marketing, what aspirations they should truly have in a marketing career, and the concreteness of the marketing curriculum that is supposed to prepare them for the "best years" of their lives.

Stratmark 2005 is deemed to be more than just an ordinary conference. In a deeper context, it symbolized the synthesis of the marketing industry and the academe as they joined hands for a common cause - to restore marketing's rightful place in the business world.

In behalf of the National Marketing Month Committee of the PMA, let me express our gratitude to the people who supported us in this endeavor.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.

RUBY RAMORES
Director
National Marketing Month



To our dear students, faculty and fellow marketing practioners,

Thank you for making the recently concluded Strategic Marketing Conference and Competition a booming success. It is with your help that we made this event truly "Marketing Convergence at Work". Allow me to also extend my congratulations to all competitors who have shown that the Marketing industry has a very bright future ahead. Indeed, the convergence between the minds of both those who learn, practice and teach the discipline can only lead to something fruitful, a formula of success if you will, in achieving the many visions that we have.

To everyone who was involved, especially the students, remember well the day that you met some of the leaders in the field, and maybe some time in the near future, you yourselves would be imparting what you learned today, to those who will follow your footsteps.

JOJO AJERO (*Sgd.*)
VP Youth & Academe
Philippine Marketing Association

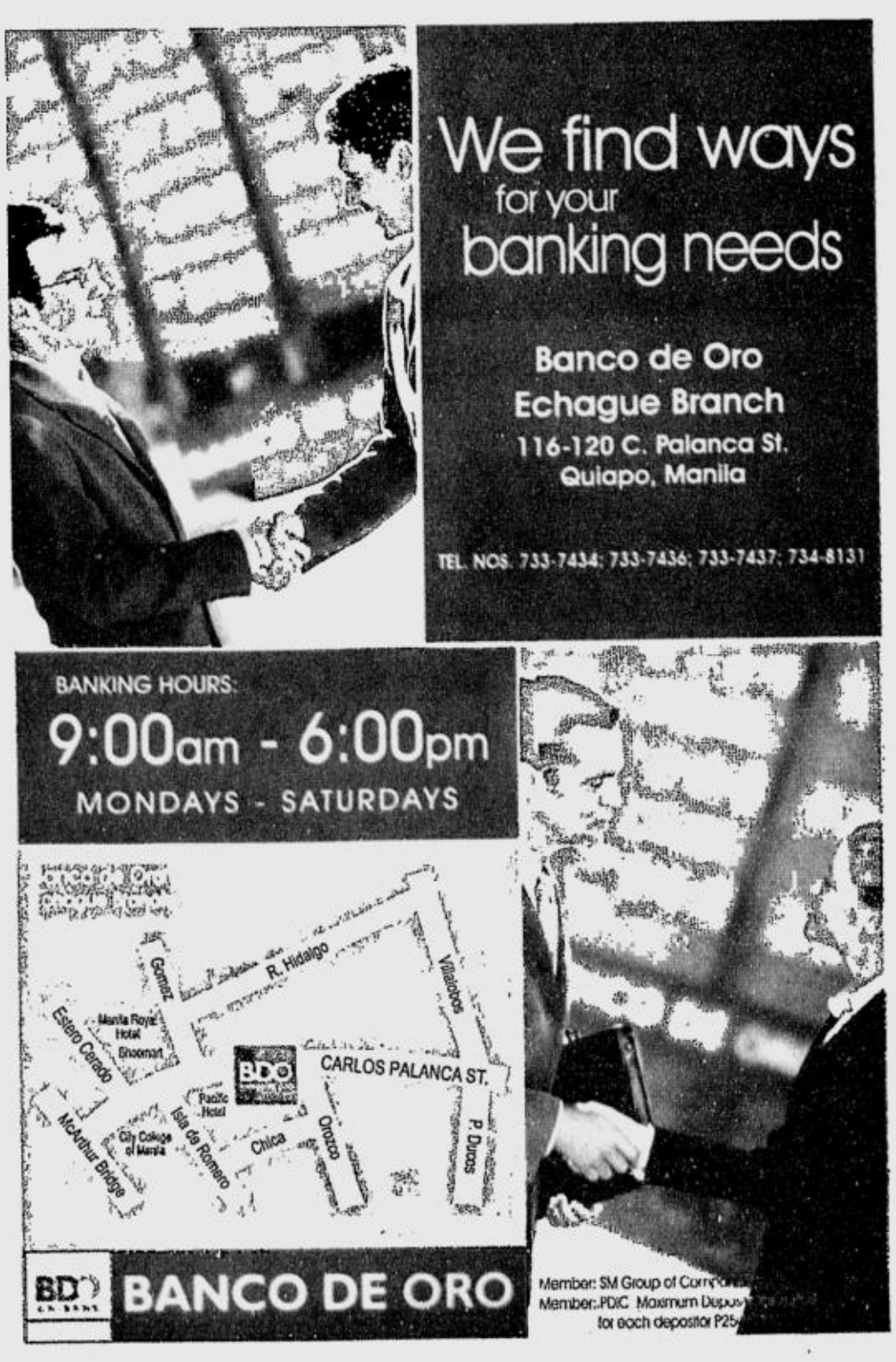
The local marketing industry is again abuzz with activities with the commemoration of the National Marketing Month, spearheaded by the Philippine Marketing Association Inc. (PMA).

I would like to congratulate PMA and the Association of Marketing Educators for jointly mounting the 2005 Strategic Marketing Conference for Students as one of the core activities of this year's month-long celebration. This Conference will be an invaluable learning ground for marketing students to get a glimpse of the future of marketing - its continued evolvement gearing towards market convergence. Market convergence is now the key driver of change and powerful catalyst that many organizations are utilizing to remain buoyant in the business.

For the students, if you have the passion to embark on a career in marketing, you will definitely find this forum insightful. I encourage you all to take advantage of this rare opportunity to listen, learn and interact with a distinguished roster of marketing practitioners who will share their knowledge and winning formula for success. We hope this activity will inspire you to dream and achieve.

Here's to another great year in marketing!

JOSE JESUS E ROCES
President
Asia Pacific Marketing Federation



PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

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2nd Strategic Marketing Competition

CHAMPION!
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, DILIMAN
Posing with the winners are the judges: Gerard Peñaflor, marketing manager, Nestle Ice Cream; Dick Estrella, AGM PCSO; Caloy Hinolan, GM, AudioWav; Donald Lim, VP for marketing, INQUIRER; Moriel Abogado, AVP property manager, Alimall; Grace Magno, head of marketing, Araneta Group; Jos Ortega, chair and CEO, BrandLab

FIRST RUNNER-UP
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

SECOND RUNNER-UP
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, DASMARIÑAS

OTHER FINALISTS
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (VISAYAS)

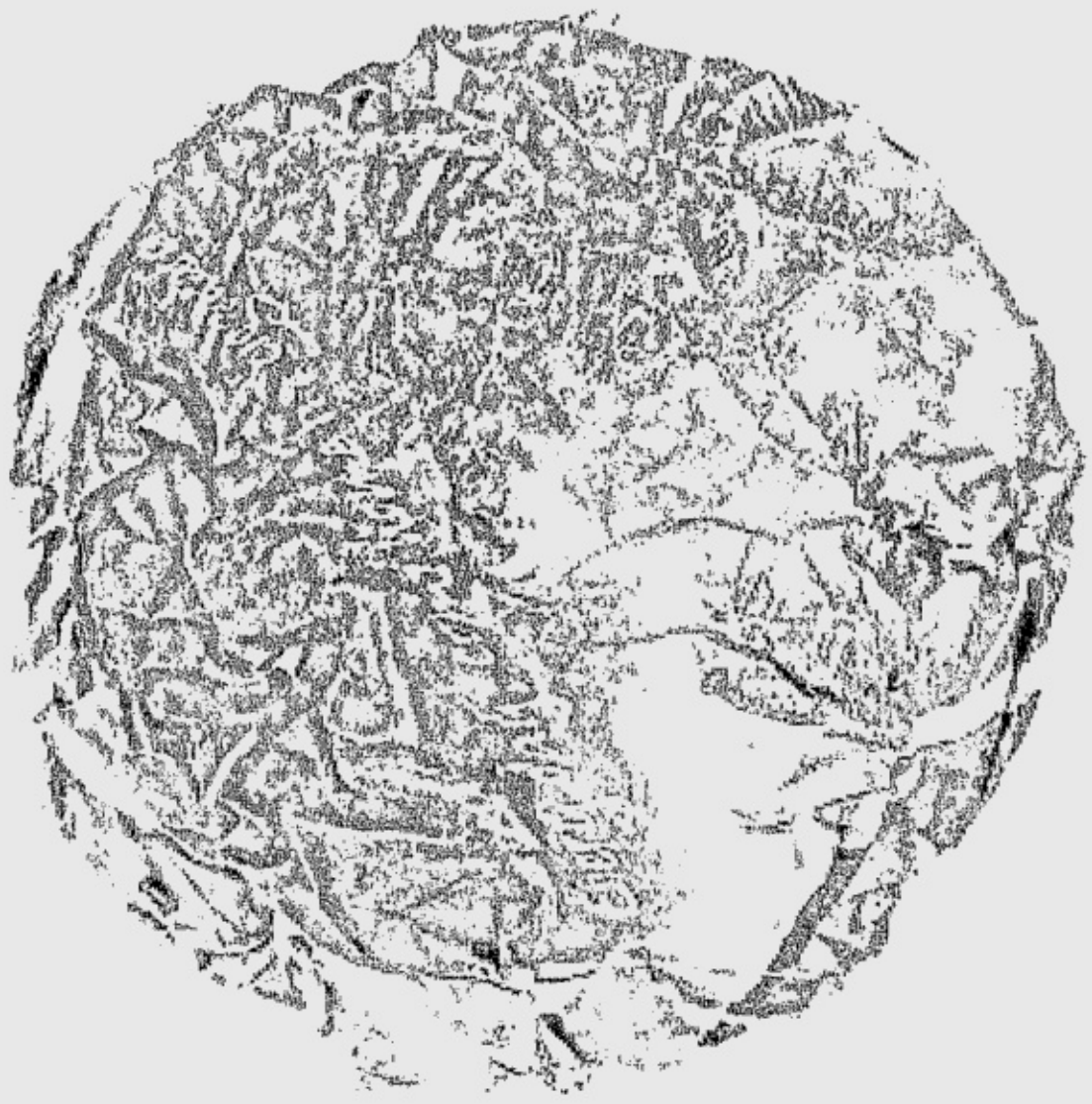
2005 Strategic Marketing Conference Speakers

ANGELICA Suiza, marketing director, Adidas

PAOLO Eugenio Baltao, segment head for business development, Globe Telecom

GRACE Magno, head of marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

JOS Ortega, chair and CEO, BrandLab



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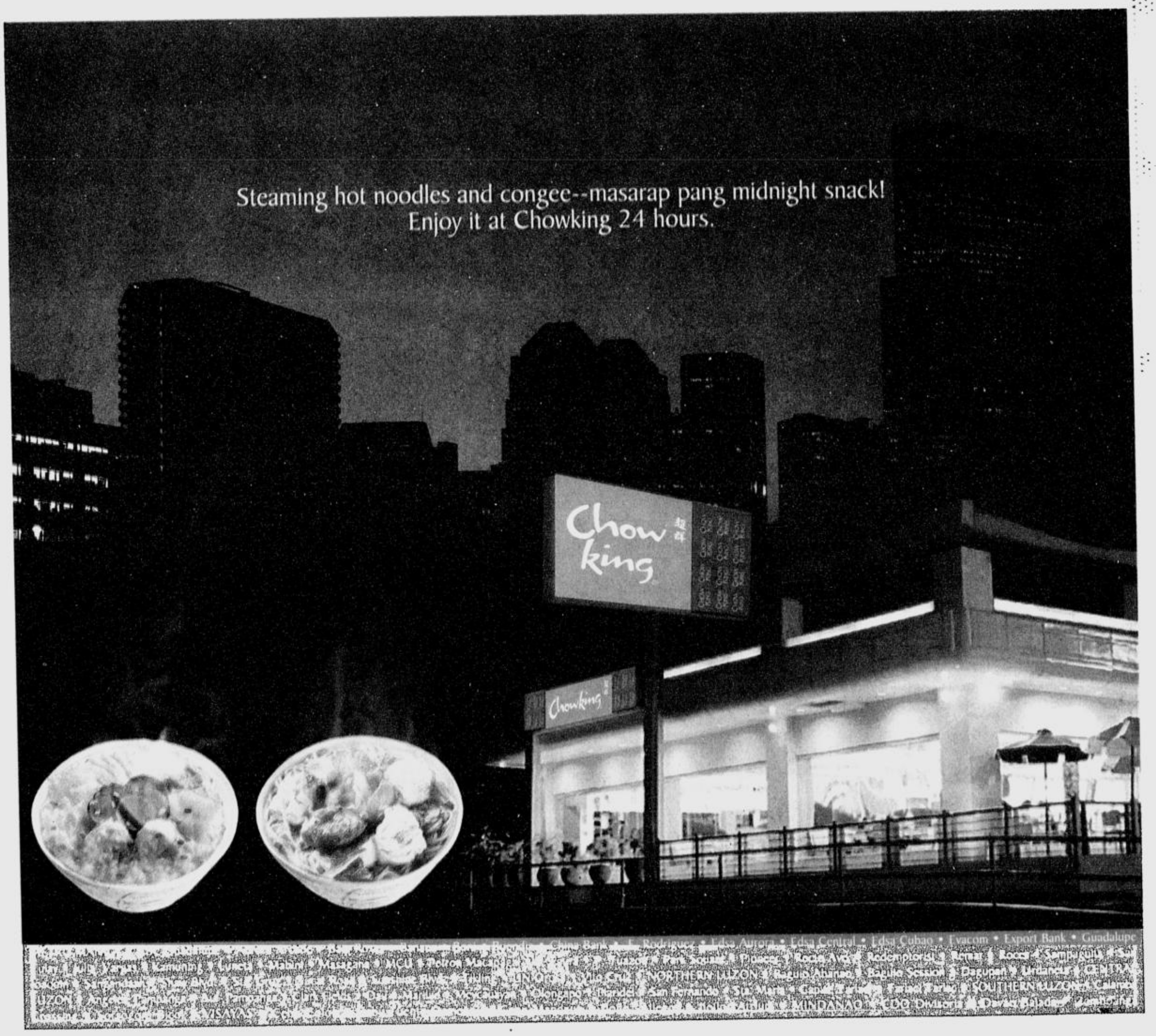

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Kris Aquino:
The New Face Of Araneta Center

Araneta Center in Quezon City has once again turned into a glittering shopping paradise, most especially with the addition of the posh Gateway Mall. But the retail and entertainment giant isn't about to rest on its laurels and is intent on giving its rival shopping centers a run for their money. Part of Araneta Center's efforts to regain lost glory is the recent signing of Kris Aquino as its celebrity endorser.

Kris loves being the face of Araneta Center, which, aside from Gateway, also includes Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza, offering the widest range of shopping, dining and entertainment in the metropolis.

"It's so accessible from my place of work," says Kris (shown here with Stella Marquez De Araneta and Araneta Group Vice Chair and ninang Judy Araneta-Roxas), who spends most of her time at the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City. "I'm sure a lot of shoppers feel the same, especially with the MRT and LRT 2 access."

Among the stores in Araneta Center, a favorite of Kris is Taco Bell at Gateway Mall. "I'm so happy that I can now enjoy my favorite tacos anytime I feel like it! Unlike before when I could only do so when I went to the United States."

A movie buff, Kris is all praises when it comes to Gateway Cineplex 10 which showcases state-of-the-art sound system, the country's largest theater with the widest screen, a one-of-a-kind cinema lobby skylight, and the world's first and only La-Z-Boy theater.

"Of course, everyone knows I love watching movies and I love the fact Cineplex 10 has got the latest cinema technology. And given its location, I can easily sneak into the cinema during breaks to relax."

Gateway Mall, so named because it aspires to be the main corridor for all shoppers in Metro Manila, is home to the world's biggest names in upscale retailing and dining including Mango, Rustan's, Lacoste, Italianni's, Marks & Spencer, and a whole lot more.

Gateway Mall marks Araneta Center's bid to become the ultimate lifestyle destination: striking, vibrant and alive with 24-hour activity; the new face of style for the entire metropolis. And who better to represent the Center's renaissance than the always-stylish Kris Aquino!